

**Minutes
West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
Recessed Meeting of Tuesday October 14,2025
October 21, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

An Executive Session was held on October 16, 2025 for Police Negotiations and Legal Issues and October 21, 2025 for Police and Employee Contract Negotiations.

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: Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Ray Lucich, Police Chief Jason Newton, Barb Lindsay,, David Garon,Robert Lucich, Harry Kornbau, Jen, McCardey, Ollie Kelsey, Darlene Raiti, Keiffer Ritter, Kate Spade, Carol and Cindi Smith, David Dye, Chris Corna,Cayden Stuble, LeahAnn Williams

Public Comments:Mr. Ray Lucich inquired about the status of the empty Circle K store. Mayor Stacey Curry explained to everyone that the parcel was up for Tax Sale. However, it was pulled off the tax sale because the owner had passed away. He was a German citizen, and she discovered that the property may be owned by the Country of Germany. It is a Federal issue. She is working with Parke Wentling's office, and Representative Mike Kelley. There are several agencies working on the issue. Mr. Lucich added that his concern is, if it takes two more years, the Borough is missing out on tax money. Mayor Stacey added, that is everyone's concern, If they are able to have someone sign off on the property, it will be able to be sold at fair market value. President Tim Webster added to let everyone know, It was up for Tax Sale. Darlene Raiti asked if the Borough was giving the right to the School District concerning the School Resource Officer. President Webster said it is the first item on the Agenda, so we will move to that.

School Resource Office: Proposed Ordinance for Granting Legal Authority to an Outside Police Entity: Mr. Webster explained what needs to be done to issue an Ordinance. How it has to be advertised to grant the Ordinance. Mr. Webster read the Ordinance. Any Questions: Chief Newton asked when the Ordinance would be done. Mr. Webster replied, If the Ordinance is needed, it will be voted on after the proper advertisement. Chief Jason Newton informed all that the Code has to sit for 30 Days. It has to be done by November 30, 2025. Chief Newton asked if a copy can be given to the School District as soon as possible, because they will need to vote on it. Mr. Webster said, yes we will get a copy to the school as soon as possible.

Police Contract: Mr. Webster stated that at the end of the last Borough Council meeting, the Council had said that the Borough would like to negotiate more. He then said that at the end of

the Shenango Township Supervisor Meeting, they did state the language and length of the contract could possibly be negotiated. He stated that the Borough Council could not vote on the Contract until the Cost, Language and Length was negotiated. At the Township meeting, the Supervisors did vote on and pass the Cost of the contract. But they would be willing to negotiate the Language and Length, but the cost was firm. The Borough reached out to Shenango Twp, then they reached out to us. The Borough reached back out to the Township Supervisors. The Borough responded they are willing to negotiate more, because it could not be voted on based just on cost. The Borough will vote on a complete contract of Cost, Language and Length. The Borough would like to have a complete contract. That is where we are at. Mr. Webster stated that he wanted to answer questions concerning all of the information posted online concerning the Borough finances. He started with the Borough Sewer Account. He explained that the money in that account can only be used for Sewer related costs. It has to be a sanitary sewer expense. The borough is not even allowed to use those monies for storm sewers. The Borough is not able to use it for Police. He explained how the billing for the sanitary sewer is done. If they tell you we can use that money for the police, that is wrong. The Borough does have a Sewer Authority. The Borough handles that account for the Authority. Another account that was put up was a Road Tax account. It can only be used for Road issues and repairs. Three mills go to the Fire Department. It can only be used for the Fire Department. We have .167 mills going to our Pension account. That money is designated to our Pension. We have a Hogback account. That money can only be used for flood control for Hogback Run. We also have a Street Light Fund. It can only be used for street lights. The only money we can use for Police Services is our General Account. All of the information you are hearing online about the accounts that can be used for Police Protection is not true. You are being misled. We are not aware of how the Township is able to use their money, that is their business. I am just letting you know how the money is designated in the Borough. The Borough tax money is divided between different accounts. He stated that there is a lot out there online, and he wanted to explain it to everyone. Again, he said there is language in the contract that needs to be changed. The Borough is not trying to pull anything over on anyone, the Borough just wants a fair contract. Mr. Webster stated if this does not go through, it will be a change for the Borough, and it will be a change for Shenango Twp. The Borough has no say in the Police Department. If the Borough pays for 2 police officers, everything stays the same in the Borough and in the Township. Darlene Raiti asked what is the cost of the two officers? Mr. Webster went over the numbers again based on the Township total expenses. Darlene Raiti added that she trusts when she picks up the phone to need the police, they will be there. She asked why do we keep having meetings like this? Mayor Stacey added that we are hoping to still be negotiating on a complete contract. Also to address all of the items posted online. And all of the anonymous posts. All of the posts are making a difficult situation more difficult. You are being misinformed about the finances. Those who are posting do not know what all is going on. Mr. Webster explained again how the cost for two officers is calculated. We understand that the price goes up, we understand insurance goes up, we understand that the officers deserve a raise. All the Borough is saying, we need to base the cost and increase on a true number. Mayor Stacey added that the Borough has always paid the bill that we were given. So, to say we underpaid is not accurate. If the starting number is right, then the increase on the right number makes sense. Basic accounting is you have to take your revenue off of your expenses. All revenue needs to come off of the expenses. They receive

money for the School Resource Officer, but that amount is not being taken off of the expenses. There was a discussion about the grants for traffic stops. Grant money should be taken off of the expenses. Mr. Webster added that getting grant money is wonderful. Mayor Stacey asked if you receive money for a traffic stop, is the grant money put towards the traffic stop? Or if the traffic stop happens in the Borough is that traffic stop part of the Call Numbers charged to the Borough? Chief Newton explained how the Grant Buckle Up is done. Mayor Stacey asked for a better explanation on how calls are calculated. Chief Newton said he has never produced any grant money details. He feels that it is giving more to the Borough by showing the Police presence in the Borough. She asked again, if those calls are being paid by the grant, how can they be also calculated into the Borough calls. Mr. Webster asked where the grant money is showing in the budget. Chief Newton stated, the expense will show up in my budget. The revenue will also show. Mr. Webster added, that is what I am talking about. The Borough is basing the cost of two police officers on the Expenses only because the revenue is not showing anywhere. Chief Newton added that he is still not sure how the Borough is basing the cost of only 2 patrol officers. Mr. Webster explained the calculations again. He is basing it on what Chief Newton had said the 3 officers would need to be laid off. One, the resource officer, and the other two would be officers needed in the Borough. Mr. Webster asked what extra do you need to cover the Borough. Chief Newton stated that back in 2016 we hired those officers for the Borough. Mr. Webster asked if you hired 3 Police Officers? Chief Newton stated we added 4, one being the School Resource Officer. Mayor Stacey asked if they were full time, or part time. Chief Newton added they were part time. Chief Newton referred back to the contract. That was the contract of 2016. He stated that you pay for the complete department, not just 2 officers. Chief Newton said that the Borough does not pay for 2 people, you pay for the whole department. Mayor Stacey stated then we will refer it to 2/11 of your full expense. Mr. Webster stated that he suggested that negotiations in public should be stopped. He said to Chief Newton, I understand you can not negotiate for the Township. But he said if you want to continue we can. He added that the Township voted last week on the Cost. He asked, is the Borough today going to pay the 5.666% increase? Mr. Webster said, we can not vote on just the cost. We can only vote on a complete contract. Chief Newton added, at the first negotiation meeting, Mr. Lark stated if we can't agree on the cost, there is no sense in talking about anything else. Mr. Lark replied, I remember saying that, but I also said we need to discuss other items. And he stated a few of the items. Chief Newton added then there is no sense in negotiations on the other items if the cost is not agreed on. Mr. Webster added again, we can only vote on a complete contract. Mr. Bollinger added that's a nice suggestion. Until we get a complete contract. Mayor Stacey added it is based on the length and the language and we can vote on it until it is complete. Chief Newton stated that he knows how the Township Supervisors feel about the cost. They are set on the number they voted on. Barb Lindsay asked where with the contract with the Borough currently Mr. Webster stated that the Township voted on the cost of the contract. You can't vote on just the cost. The Borough needs to know what we get for that cost. How long the contract will be in effect. Mr. Webster added that hopefully the negotiation can be done, and we can have a special meeting after to vote. The Borough is hoping that it can be done as soon as possible. Mr. Lark added that Mr. Hubert ended the negotiations saying that we are done. The Supervisors then voted on the cost.

Mr. Hubert then stated that the Township is still open for negotiations on the language and length but firm on the cost. Mr. Webster stated the two committees need to sit back down. Mrs. Williams stated that the Township and the Borough is the problem. She asked when you can schedule a negotiation. Mayor Stacey agrees it needs to happen. Mr. Webster stated that he hopes that they can get together as soon as possible. There was a discussion on all of the offers on cost during the negotiations. Mr. Lark said we just handed Chief Newton a letter tonight. Mr. Webster added that Mr. Hubert knew the letter would be delivered to Chief Newton tonight, OR I would go to the Township Building and hand deliver it in the morning. Mr. Webster said, we will give it till tomorrow morning, and we will get the next meeting scheduled as soon as possible. Mr. Webster added we have no problem meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 am. Darlene Raiti asked if we were going to still have a town hall meeting? Mayor Stacey added we can't have a town hall meeting until we have something to present to the residents. Mr. Garmon asked a question about the cost of living going up. Mr. Webster asked him if he lived in the Borough? He does not. He then stated well, we allow you to ask questions at our meetings. In the Township, you have to be a township tax payer to ask questions. We allow it. Mr. Webster stated we have to get this Police Contract right. It is going to affect the Borough and the Township. This Council wants to get it right. We want to negotiate. We will try to negotiate as soon as possible. We have to get there without one side saying this is it, and too bad for you. Everyone online has no problem raising the Borough Taxes, but they don't live in the Borough. No one from The Township is saying we don't care if they raise our taxes to make this happen. The Borough has to do what is best for our residents. Hopefully, they will reach out, we can schedule a meeting, it will be a longer meeting and we can get this done. Maybe both sides can take a break and do what is best for the residents. It's easy for everyone to post online on what should be done. Mr. Ray Lucich stated that he was at the last Township meeting. It was not discussed what the Township receives from grants and other sources. That all has to be in there at negotiations. Mr. Lucich asked what all the calls were. Mr. Webster said we received the 911 call sheet. Mr. Lucich said, how can it be negotiated if you don't know what the calls are for. There are missing pieces. Both sides need to lay everything on the table. Mr. Lark added that there is another person in the room who was involved in the police negotiations. Mr. Lucich was on the negotiations for the Police contract in 2015, and I was on the negotiation for the Police contract in 2020. We will try to get this done as soon as possible. Mr. Williams asked who was on the negotiation team. Mr. Webster stated Mayor Stacey, Mr. Bollinger, and Mr. Lark. Chief Newton stated for the township it is Mr. Hubert, Mr. Weiser, and himself. Mayor Stacey added the meetings have been very respectful. She said Mr. Hubert even thanked the committee for the good meetings. Mayor Stacey stated that everyone is happy with Shenango Township. They need something and we need something and we are trying to get there. Everyone will lose if don't keep talking. Mr. Kelsey stated that he is a renter in the Borough. He was stating there are other items to consider. Number of residents, and mileage in the Borough and the Township. He asked what are other options besides Shenango. Mayor Stacey said we have reached out to other Municipalities. Mayor Stacey was asked by Dave Gaon if she is able to look into the possibility of adding the Shenango Township EMS to the Borough residents. Mr. Webster added that everyone is able to request Shenango Twp. He added we will look into it. Mr. Kelsey asked again if there is a millage designated just to police? Mr. Webster added that it is calculated into our General Millage.

Mr. Webster reviewed all of the upcoming events and meetings in the Borough. He stated if we do need to schedule a special meeting, it will be done to vote on a Police contract.

Mr. Novak made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, no Opposed. Motion carried. .

The Council stayed for an Executive Session on Personnel Matters.