

**Minutes  
West Middlesex Borough  
Special Council Meeting  
October 27, 2025**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Mr. Webster informed all that this is a Special Scheduled Council Meeting. It was advertised in the Herald on Saturday October 25th and posted on the door of the Community Hall and also posted on the Borough Website.**

**An Executive Session was held on October 24, 2025 for Contractual and Legal Matters, and October 27, 2025 for Contractual and Legal Matter including employee contract.**

**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, Cristal Bollinger, Mr. Ray Lucich, Amanda Lucich, David Harris, Anthony Libonati, Kevin Wherry, James Forsythe, Robert Lucich, April Mastropiety, Chief Jason Newton, J. Decarman, David Moyer, Zach Stines, Darlene Raiti, Antonio DiBello, Chris Canter, Amber Connors, Judy Winemiller, Jen McCarty, Carol and Cindy Smith, Keiuffer Ritter, Mrs. Leah Ann Kate Shade.

Mr. Webster read the Pledge of Public Comment: We may disagree, but we will be respectful of one another. We will direct all comments to the issues. We will avoid personal attacks. Speaking without being recognized, will be considered as "Out of Order".

**Public Comments:** None

**Police Contract Negotiations:**

Review of Negotiations for a Police Contract: Mr. Lark, the head of the negotiation committee reviewed the negotiations. He informed everyone that the Police Negotiation Committee consisted of himself, Mayor Stacey Curry, and Councilman Dennis Bollinger. Meetings were held with the Township of Shenango, who has the current Police contract that will expire on December 31, 2025. The Negotiation committee had discussions with three other Municipalities, two Private Agencies, and also with the State Police. The discussions have been going on for the last several months. He informed all that the Council has decided to resolve this issue tonight. Mr. Lark made a Motion for the calendar years 2026, 2027, and 2028, that the Borough of West Middlesex enter into a tentative agreement with the city of Farrell of Pennsylvania for Police Contract for the next 3 years as outlined in the proposal that has been distributed to Council for its consideration. Previously the Borough of West Middlesex received Police coverage from the City of Farrell, when the Borough of West Middlesex was part of

Southwest Regional Organization that had headquarters in Farrell Pennsylvania. Currently in the year 2025 the contract with the Township of Shenango pays \$193,312.55. In the year 2026, which will be the first year of the contract with the City of Farrell, the Borough of West Middlesex will pay \$184,210.96. That is a considerable decrease. Approximately \$10,000.00 decrease. In the year 2027, with the City of Farrell the contract will be in the amount of \$191,579.39. Again, that is a decrease of our current contract cost of \$193,312.55. And the third and final year of the contract with the City of Farrell. The cost will be \$199,242.57 that is an increase of our current year contract in the amount of approximately \$6,000.00. I seek a second of the Motion and a discussion of the Motion. Mr. Novak seconded the Motion. Any questions on the Motion? No questions.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Webster: Yes

Mr. Lark: Yes

Mr. Novak: Yes

Mr. Rankin: Yes

Mr. Bollinger: Yes

Motion Carries

Mr. Lark called on Attorney Tesone to inform Council what it needs to do to proceed forward with the City of Farrell. Attorney Tesone informed Council that they will move forward with the City of Farrell to Mr. Lark added that the City of Farrell will be conducting a meeting at 7:00 tonight and this will be on their agenda also.

Mr. Rankin made a Motion for Mr. Lark, Mayor Stacey Curry, and Mr. Dennis Bollinger to finalize the agreement, working with both Solicitors of each Government for the Contract for Police Coverage with the Borough of West Middlesex and the City of Farrell. Seconded by Mr. Lark.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Webster: Yes

Mr. Lark: Yes

Mr. Novak: Yes

Mr. Rankin: Yes

Mr. Bollinger: Yes

Motion Carries

Mr. Lark made a motion: To prepare for the future, when the Borough of West Middlesex reorganizes for the year 2026, that a Police Study Committee be formed for the time period of :

January 1, 2026- December 31, 2028, that will consist of the following: the Mayor, 2 Council Members, 1 Borough Resident, and 1 Borough Business Owner. The committee will issue periodic reports. Seconded by Mr. Bollinger, All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried.

Mr. Webster asked if there was any other matter concerning the Police Contract? Chief Newton said is that for Council or for anyone? Mr. Webster stated that this is not for Public Comment. However he was able to ask a question. Mr. Webster asked him to state his name. Mr. Webster stated that we know who he is, but the recorder does not. Mr. Jason Newton, Chief of Police for Shenango Township, and also a Borough resident. He asked what the patrols look like with the City of Farrell Pennsylvania. Mr. Webster stated the patrols are dedicated and random patrols. Chief Newton asked what does that mean? Mr. Novak stated it will be the same as what we currently have with Shenango Township. Mr. Webster added that our current contract with the Township states the Borough will have patrols. It does not say how many patrols that consist of. Chief Newton then asked if the City of Farrell is going to hire? Mr. Webster stated that it is between the City of Farrell and their Police Force. Chief Newton added but you wanted to tell us how many. Mr. Webster added that the Borough of West Middlesex had no say in the decision with Shenango Twp. Police Department. The Borough has no say on your Department. Chief Newton added he feels sorry for the Borough and the people who live here. Mr. Moyer, former Borough Councilman and Borough resident shared an opinion that he feels the agenda was misleading. He was not aware that there would be another option considered for the vote. He stated that we can not keep shopping for a better option. He feels that going back to Farrell is a decline. He is not discrediting Farrell, but he feels they are understaffed now. He said, Shenango Township is here, they are right beside us. He said that no one ever mentioned they were going after another Police other than Shenango. He feels you will only see Farrell, once a shift. He feels it is a discredit to the Borough of West Middlesex. Mayor Stacey added: what all of the Borough residents have been saying was: they wanted timely 911 response time, because they felt that if going with State Police it would be too long of a response time. The response time from Shenango Township was 2-6 minutes depending where they were. The response time for Farrell: Farrell is a 6 minute drive, with lights and sirens it would be 3-5 minutes. It is a similar time. Everyone requests patrol because Shenango Twp. patrols the Borough. We will have dedicated and random patrols with Farrell. It was important to have a School Police Officer. State Police would not be able to do that. When the FB post stated that it has to be Shenango Township OR Not State Police, Mayor Stacey stated that you don't have all of the information. The negotiations were not done publicly. The same way the Shenango Twp. negotiations were not done publicly. No one ever said it was only between Shenango Twp. and State Police. Mayor Stacey explained the Borough reached out to Hermitage, Shenango Twp. Farrell, 2 Private Security Business, and the State Police. Some of the other options were too expensive to consider. It was then between Shenango Twp. and Farrell. Mayor Stacey explained with both negotiations, it was considered an Executive Session and nothing would be discussed until the negotiations were over. Shenango Twp stated in negotiations that it was a nice suggestion not to discuss anything, but said they did not agree to it. They spoke to the media, and that is fine, that was their prerogative. Farrell agreed to the terms, and it was kept quiet until it was over. Mr. Moyer asked, are you saying that the coverage between the two are equal, correct? He then asked what is the difference in the cost between Shenango Twp. and Farrell in the first year? Mayor Stacey stated \$20,000. Mr. Novak added, unfortunately some very good officers are caught in the middle. He added, the Council is caught between a rock and a hard place. He stated, it is not anything bad towards the Officers that are here. They did nothing wrong. Mayor Stacey added, it is not just \$10,000. The Borough will go through 2028 and still not reach the starting rate of the Shenango Twp. Proposal. A question was asked: What is the murder rate in Farrell? Mayor Stacey stated she does not know, you will have to ask Farrell. Darlene Raiti stated that when the Borough was a part of Southwest Regional, there

was a designated zone car. She asked if with this contract, will it be the same? Someone from the public stated It will not. She said, I figured. She stated that the negotiation was done in secret. Mayor Stacey once again stated, that she had informed everyone throughout all of the negotiations, you do not have all of the information. Chief Newton stated that at the last two meetings, the Council had stated that they wanted to continue to negotiate. He then stated that the Borough did not reach out to Shenango Twp to do so. Mayor Stacey added that the Township sent a letter to the Borough of West Middlesex, that it was over if the Borough did not accept the final proposal. Chief Newton stated, yes, the monetary figure was over, but he stated we were willing to negotiate the contract language and length. Mayor Stacey added, and we also never heard from Shenango Twp. to continue negotiations. Chief Newton stated we gave you just as many letters that you gave us. He stated that Mr. Lark was at the last Shenango Twp. meeting where the Supervisors voted on the cost, but everything else was left open. He again stated that no one ever called the Township to continue negotiations. The next question came from Mrs. Leah Ann Williams, a resident of the Borough. She asked a question concerning the contract. Does it specify anything else besides the patrols? She asked will there be language in the contract stating everything that the Borough will get from Farrell. She was told that the Council tonight, voted on a proposal from Farrell. The contract will be finalized and there will be language in it that states everything that will be included. Mayor Stacey read the proposal from Farrell. She stated that it is almost the same language as the current contract with Shenango Twp. The next question came from Kate Shade, a resident of Shenango Twp. She said that at one of the last meetings, a question was asked if the Council was still looking into other contacts, and it was answered no. She then asked, for \$10,000 a year, the Borough is going to turn their backs on a department that has been good to you and dedicated? She feels the Borough by using Farrell, is over extending an already over extended area. She stated that she works in Farrell. She said it is insane. She stated that they were not just asking for just a School Resource Officer, they wanted one that the students trusted. She asked where is the loyalty? At this time some of the public started to leave the meeting in a disruptive manner, including all of the Police Officers that were present, and a few of the residents from Shenango Twp.

A Motion was made by Mr. Novak to adjourn, Seconded by Mr. Rankin. Motion carried.

Adjournment 6:58 pm.