

**Minutes
West Middlesex Borough
Work Session Meeting
July 12, 2023**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Eric Lucich, Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Tim Webster, Mayor Stacey Curry
Absent: Vice President Mr. Dave Moyer, and Mr. Bill Novak

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Street Department Senior Laborer Mr. Bobby Cochran , WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich, Ms. Barb Lapinski

Public Comments: Barb Lapinski spoke on her concerns with the Shenango TWP EMS Service. She did research on ALS/BLS Calls, and she does not feel it is the best for the community. She does not want the borough to decide for her who would respond if needed. Mr. Eric Lucich explained to her that the Borough would have a contract with Shenango TWP EMS and not the resident. She would still have the privilege to pick who she would want to respond to an emergency for her if needed.

Streets and Sewer Report: Bobby reported a concern from Joe Walsh, owner of O'Neill Coffee and the owner of the business located at 85 Garfield Street. Both have flooding problems. Both would like to have the flooding issues resolved. Joe told him that he is continuing to burn up pumps, because the pump cannot keep up with the water that is flooding his property. They would like to work together along with the Borough to resolve the issues. Possible pipe broken. A Lot of water is coming up behind Sereday's that might be causing issues. Bobby said he has some pictures and will take more to hopefully help discover where the problem may be. Bobby inquired if he should possibly get a water jet. Eric suggests they try to locate where the problem is first. Next issue: the stop sign in front of O'Neills was discussed. Mr. Lark asked how many times it has been knocked down. Bobby reported 9 times. They are not able to determine who owns the truck when it is being knocked down. They see it happening on tape, but because of the location of the camera they are not able to see evidence showing license plates or who is driving. Mr. Lark suggests to Bobby to discuss it with O'Neills and possibly move the stop sign back, more on their property to help prevent it from being hit.

Kiwanis Park: Bobby reported the park was vandalized with graffiti. Several areas were affected: The pavilion, tables, trees, swing set, slide, merry go round. All sprayed with green and blue spray paint. Mayor Stacey added, she received a call with a complaint from a neighbor with small children. She contacted Chief of Police Jason Newton. He said it was reported to him on the 7th of July. He saw the report but didn't read into the details. She feels there is a failure of communication. Had she been told; she could have had the Street Department begin to clean

up and not have to hear through a resident complaint. She asked her daughter who confirmed it was there before the 4th of July. Mayor Stacey purchased graffiti remover. She is concerned because of the graphics that were painted. Profanity, nudity content, and gang related topics. Liquor bottles and beer cans were also present at the park. A trail camera was also destroyed. She feels she knows who did the damage but is unable to prove it. Work is still in progress to have the graffiti and park cleaned and brought back to normal.

Lilly Bridge Pump. Bobby reported that the issue with the Lilly Bridge pump began on June 30th. When he went to check the pumps that day as he normally does, it would not run. Normally it will attempt to run, and after getting hot, use the reset button. He contacted IC Electric who replaced wiring at no charge. The pump was still not running correctly. He contacted Homer who pumped it out to get through the weekend. Monday Homer pumped it out again. He had Beyond Corp re-grease the bearings. Mr. Lark asked what the status is now: Pump is not working. Bobby said it sounds like a blender with rocks in it. He has quotes for pump and New Motor. He reported Homer is charging \$450 to pump out. It needs to be done every 3 days. Eric added, he spoke to Sly Sewer also. They said the cost would be \$250 if they pump out less than 500 gallons, and \$400 if over. Sly will be called going forward. Bobby also contacted V Systems for a quote. Eric also gave Bobby a name and number of another contact to call concerning a solution. He will let us know what is the quickest option and also the best option. Mr. Webster asked if there was a chance, we may have some direction or options by next week's Council Meeting. Bobby did report the lead time is 2 months. He will also call COG to see if they may have a pump or pump truck. Mr. Lark suggests he contacts Sharon, Farrell, and or Hermitage also to see if they can help us out. Mr. Webster added, we will need to make a decision Tuesday.

Pump House North Street: Bobby reported the pump house on North Street is working fine, no issues.

He also reported that Donatelli Electric did come and complete the job to move the switch for the VFD for the new Truck.

EMS: Mayor Stacey felt Barb Lapinski brought up some good points. Mr. Lark added we just want to do what is best for our residents. We should consider the 6-month Free Trial. Mr. Webster added it is important that the residents know they still have the choice if they choose to request their choice. It will be added to the agenda of the Council Meeting next week.

New Ordinance to Raise Fees for Grass Cutting: Discussion about the cost to be raised from \$25 to possibly \$100. It will be added to the agenda for the Council Meeting on Tuesday.

Fire Operational Analysis: Mr. Webster stated after reading the report, and re reading it he has some questions. It is hard to tell who is in favor and who is against the merge. Both seem in favor and both seem against. The example agreements are questionable. What about our assets? Many questions need to be answered. Eric added that the committee met and was a long process. VFD Chief Mr. Garret said it was obvious from those meetings, it was going to be a takeover not a merger. And reminded the Council of the article that was published in The

Herald. Mr. Lucich added he feels this is the only community that is not behind the Fire Department. Mr. Webster added we have to discuss this issue. He was not on Council when all the previous meetings were being held. It was decided that at the next Council Work Session Meeting, the agenda would include discussion of the Fire Operational Analysis so that the FVD and the Council can discuss the topic and concerns of all.

Mercer County Regional Planning Committee Grant Program: Mr. Lark announced the MCRPC has a grant program that we are eligible to apply for. The West Middlesex Borough has never done so in the past. He feels we should submit a request. It will be discussed on Tuesday at the Council Meeting so that a list can be organized and he can write a draft letter.

Sign for Mr. Campbell: Mr. Lark announced that the sign is completed and he will get to Erie in the next couple days to pick it up.

Questions from the Secretary: Several questions were presented to the Council from recently hired Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca concerning miscellaneous procedures in the office. All questions were answered and explained in detail.

Additional Comments: President Mr. Eric Lucich spoke concerning a new generator. He suggested we inquire into COSTARS for more information pertaining to vendors of the program who may offer generators for sale.

Adjournment 7:48pm

An Executive Session was held for Personnel and Contract Negotiations.