

**West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
December 19, 2023**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President: Mr. Eric Lucich conducted the meeting. Mr. Dave Moyer, Vice President, Mr. Tim Webster, Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Bill Novak, 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, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Bollinger.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and seconded by Mr. Lark to accept the Minutes from November 8th Budget Workshop, November 15th work session, and November 21st Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion carries.

Police Department Report: The Police Report was read by Chief Newton. Mr. Webster asked if in the future, when there is an accident in the Borough involving telephone poles or other damage, can the Borough be notified. He explained, the reason being, if a copy of the Police Report is needed, this will make finding the report easier to locate. Chief Newton reported, the report never goes away, that it is very easy to get a copy of a police report without knowing the date. If needed, he can search all reports for the Borough to find the needed report. Mayor Stacey reported the accident in question happened in April, and we would like the report to turn into insurance. Chief Newton also spoke on the status of the Bridge repair over 376. Mr. Lark confirmed the next meeting is Thursday at 10:00. He also reported he sent out several letters to all affected by the closure of the bridge.

Street Department Report: Mr. Bobby Cochran reported on the Streets Department. **North Street:** there was a low Spectrum wire that was reported to Spectrum for repair. **Gazebo:** Pic Electric repaired the wiring at the Gazebo. It was determined that there was a small electrical fire at the base of the Flag. It was repaired, however the light at the base of the Flag needs to be replaced. **West Middlesex Estates:** V-System was contacted about an estimate on the pump that was removed from WM Estates to determine if it can be repaired to be used as a spare, and if so, what is the cost. They determined that the pump will need to be taken apart to determine that. If Bobby is able to get the pump to them, there will be no charge to have it taken apart to get a quote. If it can be repaired but The Borough decides not to have them repair it, there will be a cost of \$150 for the quote. Bobby reported that he inquired with Damon and Beyond Corp, who felt it would be too expensive to repair. President Eric Lucich asked how he was going to transport the pump, Bobby reported in the Dump Bed. Eric suggests he look into

the cost to ship it or them to pick it up. It may be less than us paying gas and wages. **Skid Steer Repair:** Bobby reported that he had the skid loader repaired at McDowell Implement. The cost of the repair was 3098.94 however we had a credit on our account of 79.75, adjusting the final cost of the repair: 3019.19. **Pumps:** All pumps are working & we have a spare for the pump house that he will replace with the current pump. Would like to replace it before March. The seals are beginning to go bad and leaking. He will then send that pump out to be refurbished. Mayor Stacey thanked Bobby for all the help on Light Up Night.

Fire Department Report: The Fire Department Report was Read by WMVFD President Mr. Rich Garrett. Mayor Stacey thanked the VFD for all the help with Light Up Night and Polar Express.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Treasurer Paula Luca presented the Financial Report. A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and Seconded by Mr. Webster to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report. All In Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

2024 Budget: Mr. Webster spoke on behalf of the 2024 Budget. He added a reminder that the budget has a surplus of \$7,000. Mr. Lark added, however with the projected Real Estate Tax, that may have more. He added that at the last meeting there was a discussion of a generator, and the topic of the Braho demolition. He wants to remind all of the Council that we don't have a lot of extra money. If we do need to do other projects, we would have to cut other parts of the budget. He feels the Council needs to be careful with spending. President Eric Lucich added, one thing to look back at in the future is the situation with the ambulance service. Mayor Stacey also added the concerts with Kiwanis Park, and the drainage pipe. Mr. Lark added, we can cut expenses or take out a loan. There is no mention of raising taxes.

Mr. Webster made a motion to adopt the Tentative 2024 Budget, seconded by Mr. Lark. A vote was taken:

President Eric Lucich: NO

Vice President Dave Moyer: YES

Mr. Robert Lark: YES

Mr. Tim Webster: YES

Mr. Bill Novak: YES

Motion Carries

2024 Tax Resolutio10 of 2023. Mr. Lark made a motion to adopt the 2024 Real Estate Tax Resolution with no changes in 2024, seconded by Mr. Novak All in Favor, No Opposes: Motion Carries

Reorganization Meeting: Mr. Lark made a motion to advertise in the Herald, the reorganization meeting will be held on Tuesday January 2nd at 6:30, seconded by Mr. Webster. All in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries.

It was decided that the new Calendar Dates for 2024 Meetings will be decided and voted on at the reorganization meeting. Attorney Tesone will swear in the New Council Members, and Dates and Times for Meetings will be voted on at that meeting. At that time, an advertisement for the 2024 Council Work Session and Council meetings will be placed in the Herald.

Kiwanis Park Update: Attorney Tesone suggests that The Borough Council will have an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss Kiwanis Park. Motioned by Mr. Lark, seconded by Mr. Webster, all in favor, not opposed. Motion Carries.

2022 Audit: Mr. Webster updated Council on the Status of the 2022 Audit. The Audit is completed. It was a clean audit, but several journal entries will need to be made. Cost wise: it will be about the same cost as last year's audit. About \$17,000. President Eric Lucich added he feels that next year's audit should be less of a cost and more organized. Secretary Paula Luca added she will be meeting with the auditor to see what the journal entries are to be completed. Paula also reported that she inquired for the cost of doing the W-2's: Between \$1200 and \$1500. That would include all of the year end reports. Mayor Stacey asked if that is something Mrs. Garrett can train you to do. Mr. Webster suggested we discuss this at the reorganization meeting.

Sewer Bill 760728: Secretary Paula Luca informed Council of the issue with the Sewer Bill. Aqua Water had issued a credit to the account due to an error. In order to follow the Aqua Reports it was discussed to offer a discount on the Sewer billing to match Aqua. Mr. Lark made a motion that the account 760728 be adjusted, Seconded by Mr. Webster. All in favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

Snyder Brothers/Progressive Energy Contract: Secretary Paula Luca informed Council that we are currently in contract with Snyder Brothers concerning National Fuel usage. President Eric Lucich suggested we reach out to the representative that the Council used in the past from Progressive, to find out if there are other options to consider. Mr. Lucich will send the name and email of the previous rep to reach out to.

Other Business:

Mayor Stacey informed Council that a meeting was held last week with Penn Dot, and while they were there, she spoke with Penn Dot concerning the situation on Main Street with the Parking. An ordinance needs to be passed by Council, so police can enforce parking tickets. Attorney Tesone, if we are going to have a regular meeting on the 2nd after the reorganization meeting, he will include it in the Advertisement for the paper. He also asked for the names of the newly elected, and re-elected so he can prepare the Oath of Office documents.

Mr. Lark reported to the Council of the meeting he attended with Penn Dot concerning the water issues on Rt. 18 and the milling of Rt. 18. He also informed the Council of the meeting concerning the bridge issue. The next meeting for the bridge will be Thursday. Mr. Moyer asked Mr. Lark if he can make mention at the meeting about the possible turn around on 376.

Mr. Webster informed Council of a meeting, possibly to be held in January with two members of our Sewer Authority and two members of Shenango Twp. Authority to open up the lines of communication between the two authorities. He assured all that no discussions will be made at the meeting. Mr. Lark added he looks forward to a report on the meeting.

Mr. Lucich mentioned the information concerning Mr. Moyer resignation letter. It will be accepted on January 2nd. At the Council Meeting after the reorganization meeting.

Mr. Webster thanked Mr. Lucich for his commitment to the Council for the past 4 years.

A motion to Adjourn and to break into an Executive Meeting was made by Mr. Lark, and Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, no opposed, Motion Carries.