West Middlesex Borough
Work Session Meeting
September 10, 2025
6:30 pm

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Borough President Mr. Tim Webster

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Mr. Tim Webster conducted the meeting, Vice President Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Robert Rankin, Mr. Dennis Bollinger, Mr. Bill Novak via speaker telephone call, Mayor Stacey Curry

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer: Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer: Mr. Willaim Schwartz, Crystal Bollinger, Darlene Raiti, Dannielle Marks, Rachelle Newton, Jason Newton, Kate Shade, David, Airgood, Amber Connors, Emma Lee H., Patrick D., Cindy & Carol Smith, Megan Glass

Public Comments: Mr. Webster explained that the Borough is currently in negotiations concerning the police contract. He then opened up for public comments, asking everyone to state their name before asking their questions. Dannielle Marks presented questions to the Council asking why the Borough is considering getting rid of Shenango Twp. Police. Mr. Webster explained that our contract will be coming to an end, and that negotiations were happening, but due to ground rules, nothing could be discussed concerning the negotiations. He explained that it was agreed upon that there would be no public comments on what is being discussed in negotiations. And that it was agreed that no form of media would be contacted or commented on concerning the negotiations. That would include the paper, tv news or any type of social media. The next question was from Rachelle Newton. She asked if the Borough has reached out to other municipalities for a proposal. Mr. Webster replied that the Borough Council is doing our due diligence concerning the Police Contract. She said Yes or No? He repeated the Council is doing our due diligence. He understands everyone wants answers, but the details of the process can't be discussed. Mayor Stacey added that part of the agreement was no public comments. She stated Shenango agreed to the ground rules. Dannielle then asked another question: why has she seen Hermitage Police in the Borough. Mr. Webster stated, training is done at the karate studio, and you will see police from many municipalities in the Borough attending that. Question from Amber Conner: Are you going to vote on the decision of the Resource Office in the school without out allowing the public to be a part of that? Mr. Webster stated that the Borough of West Middlesex has nothing to do concerning the School Resource Officer. That is the school's decision. The school is located in the Borough, but the Borough has nothing to do with the school resource office. If you have a question about the school resource officer, you would need to ask the school. The school has an agreement with Shenango Twp. Police department for the resource office. Next Question: Kate Spade asked a question specifically about the resource officer and training. Mr. Webster once again stated that the resource office and the school have nothing to do with the Borough. The Borough has no say so in anything associated with the resource officer. She then asked if the resource officer is any part of the Borough Police contract. Mr. Webster again stated, no, it is a completely separate contract between the school and Shenango Twp. Mayor Stacey Curry added that the school has options on how they choose to protect the students. Mrs. Newton inquired about the jurisdiction to the school concerning the Shenango Twp. Police Dept. She stated if the school went with another option, it would be a huge expense to the school district. She stated that the school's budget is very tight. She stated the school is drowning and can barely stay afloat. She invited all to attend a school board meeting. She stated, it is not possibly for the school district to afford a more expensive option. Next question from Dannielle Marks: she asked, I see 6 people sitting up at the table, who at the end of the day makes the decision concerning the

Police department? Is it you or is it the community? Mr. Webster stated that ultimately it is the councilmen. He stated, Mr. Novak, (who is not present tonight, but is via the phone), Mr. Bollinger, Mr. Lark, Mr. Rankin, and myself. Mayor Stacey does not have a vote in the decision. Dannielle then asked, how do you determine your decision, is it cost, is it the protection, because your opinion might be different than mine. Mr. Webster added, that is correct, we have been elected to Council. We are your representatives. It works the same way for congressmen, senators, and the President. They all make decisions every day. They may make decisions that may not be100% what you want, but we have been entrusted to make the decision, and we have to base our decision on a lot of different avenues, and it is not personal. Mayor Stacey added that the Council and herself have been researching information on this decision for over a year. The Borough has had a study completed through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). No one is taking the decision lightly. Darleen Raiti then added information concerning 911. She has worked at 911 for 24 years. She stated in connection to State Police, if the state police do not feel they can get to a call quick, they reach out to other municipalities for back up. So, here, that would be Shenango Twp. for backup. She asked Chief Newton if that is correct. Mayor Stacey added, that is how it is for Lackawannock Twp., because they have state police. Ms. Raiti added, in her opinion, the estimated time of arrival for state police will not be good. She added she does not have anything against State Police, but it will be slower response. Mayor Stacey added she understands everyone is concerned. She stated some statistics concerning the state of Pennsylvania coverage. She stated, I am not reading this advocating for State Police, but just reading the statistics discovered in our research. Chief Newton did not agree with all of the information. He stated, as per the School Resource Officer, Shenango Twp. Police department has total jurisdiction, and does not need to call the State Polce. He also added the State Police do not put a trooper in any schools in the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Webster thanked Chief Newton for the information. Rachelle Newton asked a question based on the number of Boroughs who have State Police. She asked how many of those Boroughs had local coverage before going with State Police. How many of those Boroughs stripped the local police coverage to go with State Police? Mr. Webster added no one is trying to Strip the Police Coverage. He then reminded everyone; we are in negotiations. We have to limit what we can say. He pointed out as stated on the agenda there is another executive session tonight to discuss the negotiations more. No decisions have been made. We are in negotiations. Mrs. Newton added, it just seems, very secretive. Mr. Webster added, in all negotiations, you do not have public negotiations. Danielle Marks asked again, are you going to base the decision only on cost? Mr. Webster added, no, a decision will be based on all of the information gathered, and doing what is best for the residents based on all of the information. Amber Conner added, don't you feel the best thing for all residents is for everyone to just get along with each other. All of Council agreed that would be a great thing. Amber then made reference to the pool. Mr. Webster stated, the pool has nothing to do with the Police contract or negotiations. Mrs. Newton asked: it is a money issue? Mr. Lark added, money has always been an issue. Mr. Webster again said, we are not trying to be secret with everyone. We also are having negotiations with our employee contract. We do not discuss any negotiations in public. It would not be right to do so. We have to do our due diligence. He added, we have to do a budget. Inside this budget, we have to work inside our means. We can't comment more. Mrs. Newton added, she feels that it good to have the information out there, because people can tell you what they think and offer their opinions. Mr. Webster added, the decision will be voted on in a public meeting. That is what has been entrusted on us when we were voted on to Council. Just like all of the decision we have made. People have voted for us to make decision on their behalf. He repeated, it will be voted on at a public meeting. It will be posted on the agenda when we will be voting on it. If we have to have a special meeting to vote on it, it will be advertised in the Paper. Council is not doing anything in secret. Mayor Stacey added, once the negotiations are done, we can then inform everyone what the information is. Mrs. Newton asked if there is more public present at this meeting then normally? Everyone agreed there is. She stated, based on that, it shows what people feel. Mayor Stacey added, but no one here knows all of the information going into the decision. Mrs. Newton added, I do know that I feel safer with the Police Department

right up the road. Mayor Stacey added, I do not disagree with you. Mrs. Newton added, that is the reason why we are here. Mr. David Airgood voiced to everyone that he has lived in the Borough over 20 years, and he sees the police every day. He feels they are the best he has seen in the Borough. And they are right on top of the hill. He stated that 6 minutes is the longest he has ever waited for them to come to a call. Megan Glass asked if the Council's decision would affect the EMS? Mayor Stacey replied the Borough has nothing to do with the Ambulance service. Stacey added, when you call 911, you have the right to request what ambulance company you would request, Raiti added, the first thing you are asked is, if you have a preference. And as the 911 dispatch would know if your preference is out on another call. There was a discussion about the rotation of the Ambulance program. Stacey informed all that EMS of Shenango Twp., presented a program to the Borough to offer a 6-month free trial program that would allow Shenango Twp to offer soft billing to Borough residents. After the 6 months, the Borough would pay a flat rate ($70) per call to allow them to do that. At that time, the Borough voted in favor of the 6-month trial period, however when Shenango Twp., EMS informed the Shenango Twp. Supervisors, they put an end to the agreement. The Borough has never heard anything back from Shenango Twp. about that agreement. Mayor Stacey, addressing the comment from Amber Connors concerning the pool. Mayor Stacey defended Shenango Twp. Supervisors and their decision to pull out of the pool. Them pooling out of the pool contract has nothing to do with the Police negotiations. Last year at a Shenango Twp. Supervisor meeting, they stated that they have an amount of tax dollars to spend on parks and recs. The Supervisors that were elected, felt that not enough residents of Shenango Twp. use the pool, and they have the old COG field on Wheatland Road. They voted on what they felt was best for their residents to keep their tax dollars inside their municipality. They stayed in the contract this past year, because the deadline to pull out was past. They would revisit the vote after the pool season. She did not feel that their decision was based on what they felt was the best decision for their residents. Mrs. Newton added one last comment. She hopes that Borough Council makes their decision based on what is the best for the Borough residents. Mayor Stace agreed. Mr. Lark added, we wouldn't have it any other way. Mrs. Newton added, I hope so. He stated, you don't have to hope so. Chief Newton added information concerning the Resource Officer. He stated that Schools that have their own security is similar to hospitals that offer a private program. They are not actual Polce officers. He stated, if the Borough voted not to go with Shenango Twp. Police Dept., they would not have jurisdiction in the Borough. Mayor Stacey thanked Chief Newton for clarifying that information, that is not was she was told by the PSP Commander. Mr. Webster asked if there were any other questions. Kate Spade asked an additional question concerning EMS and the rotation. Mr. Novak, who is on speak phone suggest she ask Shenango Twp EMS department. Mr. Webster once again explained the request from Shenango Twp. EMS to the Borough Council. A request that was voted on in favor by the WM Council, however it never happened because Shenango Twp did not move forward on it. Also, we did have residents from the Borough that were not in agreement to enter into the trial agreement, but the Council did vote in favor to do it. It went back to the Township, and that was the last the Borough ever heard of it. He also pointed out, that is not this Council. That happened with the last Borough Council. It was 18 months ago. It was voted in favor by the Borough Council, but it never came back from Shenango Twp. Mayor Stacey added there were 2 things that happened in the past concerning EMS with the Borough and Shenango Twp. The first was that an agreement was signed to allow the Township EMS to come into the Borough. The second was to enter into the 6-month free agreement that never happened because Shenango Twp. never came back to the Borough to move forward. Mr. Webster stated that is where we are at on this subject. Mr. Webster asked if there is anything else before moving forward on our regular order of business. No additional comments.

Street Department Report: Bill Schwartz updated Council that AJ from True Plumbing is working at WM Estates installing the new Wet Well and pumps. Both of the Borough trucks have been inspected. Need to get some fittings for the dump truck for the snow plow. He will get pricing cost. The salt spreader has been maintained and ready to go.

Heaters at the Pump House: This was talked about before. Bill Schwartz added he found one that was about $300 cheaper and he never heard back to purchase it. It was decided to get new pricing.

Key to the Pump House and lock box: This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Trick or Treat Date and Hours: It will be placed on the agenda to vote to have it on October 31st from 4:00 – 6:00. Secretary Paula Luca will call COG to get information on when other municipalities are holding theirs. Also, information on the football schedule will be looked into.

Power to the School Speed Limit Sigh: Mr. Newton questioned why the Borough is paying for the cost of this sign since there are three municipalities in the school district. It is because the sign is in the Borough, so it is the Borough responsibility.

ADA Sidewalks and Telephone Poles: Mr. Novak made a call to our local State Reprehensive and they are now moving telephone poles that are interfering with ADA sidewalks.

Penn DOT Sign Permit: Regenex received a letter from Penn DOT requesting a sign permit that has traffic direction to their plant. The sign was placed by the Borough to help control truck traffic on Borough side streets. Regenex has reached out to the Borough for help with the sign permit. This will be placed on next Council meeting agenda.

LSA Grant 2025: Information was discussed on submitting an application for the LSA Grant. If a Grant request is entered, there will need to be a resolution. This item will be on the next Council meeting agenda to vote to approve the resolution needed.

Pension MMO Worksheet. The Borough Council has to vote to approve the pension MMO worksheet. This item will be on the next Council meeting agenda to vote to approve the MMO worksheet.

Office Computer Tower: The office is in need of a new computer tower. Secretary Paula Luca informed Council that there are points available on the FNB credit card that can be redeemed for gift cards to be used for the purchase of the new tower. There are enough points available for $300 in gift cards. This item will be on the next Council meeting agenda to vote to redeem the points for gift cards to be used to purchase a new tower.

Recycle Ink Cartridge: The Borough would like to help the residents recycle ink cartridges. It will be on the next Council meeting agenda to vote to start a recycle program for all ink cartridges.

Invoices for Sewer Billing: Secretary Paula Luca updated council that invoices were ordered for the sewer billing.

Paper Towels in Municipal Building Restrooms: The dispensers were able to be adjusted so that normal size paper towels can be used, saving the Borough from having to purchase new dispensers.

Veterans Day Parade. The Veterans Day parade will be hosted by the West Middlesex VFW this year. A Parade Permit will need to be submitted and obtained. This item will be on the next Council meeting agenda to vote to allow Secretary Paula Luca submit the application for the parade permit.

Updates: Mr. Lark updated all on the PennDOT project on Route #80 that is currently going on, and the ones scheduled for the future. He also updated all on the year end updates of the pool, and the work being done at the WM Estates.

Executive Session: The Council went into the Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the Police and the Employees and also legal issues with Shenango Twp. Municipal (sewer) Authority.