

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting via Zoom
January 4, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judy Hamilton, Sarah Llewellyn and Allan Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Renee Morris, Kitty Mitchell and Sandy Corsaro

Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge brought the meeting to order. She asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried. Minutes are available upon request. Next council meeting will be on Monday, February 8 at 7 p.m. The town will have a better knowledge of its finances by postponing the council meeting to one week later. The meeting will be via Zoom. Town office will be closed and the workers will be off on Martin L. King day, Monday, January 18.

Mayor Legge announced that the Luke Waterline is complete. Two payments have been made with statements for payments three and four to be sent in this week. Two percent of the payments will go to the engineering firm.

We are moving forward on bids for the Lincoln Drive Project. Council hopes this will be completed quickly and hopefully by July. The Gas Company will be starting on the other hill: bottom of Greene Street, Philos Avenue, and Kelly Avenue. Hopefully, this job will run smoother than the Westernport Hill job. The Gas Company will be paying for the blacktopping on Westernport Hill. Mayor Legge announced that the town would have an intern starting the week of January 18.

Mayor Legge gave the utility update. There are 231 customers behind in their payments. \$61,165 was outstanding but the new figure for today is \$58,282.02. The late fee is \$5,080. There is a problem with the Post Office and their deliveries. It could be because of the COVID-19. Mail is late getting to its destination and utility payments to the town are no exception. Postmarks on the mail are checked. Many phone calls have been made back and forth between Barb Morris and customers. In some cases, late fees are waived. The town is not shutting off anyone. The council members encourage customers to talk to them about a payment plan. The office will work with anyone who needs help.

The mayor is scheduling a work session for January 20 at 5 p.m. The UPRC and The Code Enforcement will be discussed. The meeting will be via Zoom and in person. All agreed to attend. Commissioner Whetstone will be informed.

A bid was received from HPG Windows and Doors for a replacement of 2 doors, plus electronic work on another door. The bid was for \$4,395.00. There is a bid to come in from Here To Help. Commissioner Shapiro suggested Mayor Legge take the lowest bid. Commissioner Hamilton made this motion with a second from Commissioner Llewellyn. Motion carried.

Attorney Mike Llewellyn had no updates for the council.

Commissioner Shapiro stated that our men did a fantastic job on the cleanup after the recent snowfall. Commissioner Llewellyn saw many positive comments on social media on how good the town workers performed. Commissioner Hamilton commented on what a good job our men did on the water line work.

Commissioner Llewellyn gave her Water Report. In November 13,189,000 gallons of water were treated. In December 15,816,000 gallons of water were treated. These figures would have been higher except for the water leaks.

Commissioner Hamilton gave her Police Report. Our Code Enforcement Office Mike Simpson will be coming back to work soon after his bout with COVID-19. He hopes to work a few days a week. Rental Property Inspections are still on hold for now.

Commissioner Shapiro gave his Financial Report. **It is from July through November.** There is still further work to do on our financial statements. Financial statements are available upon request.

General Fund, Total Income	\$ 326,631.64
Total Expense	243,496.37
Net Ordinary Income	83,135.27
Water Fund, Luke Waterline Expense	\$ 209,306.96
Luke Waterline Other	7,400.80
Total Luke Waterline	201,906.16
Total Grant Revenue	201,906.16
Total Income	61,611.72
Total Expense	221,713.46
Net Ordinary Income	(\$ 160,101.74)
Sewer Fund, Lincoln Drive Sewer Expense	\$ 4,635.25
Total State and Other Grants	4,635.25
Total Income	88,498.99
Total Expense	70,117.14
Net Income	18,381.85
Garbage Fund, Total Income	\$ 61,159.00
Total Expense	52,602.89
Net Income	8,556.56

Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to accept the Financial Report with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried.


Mrs. Sandra Corsaro spoke on the recent water leak on Horse Rock. Residents were not notified. Some residents on Horse Rock have to have water pumps in order to get their water. Those residents did not know about the leak and the water shut off. Therefore they did not turn off their water pumps and they kept running. The water pumps can burn up and they can cost \$1,000. Mrs. Corsaro suggested the town get cell numbers for those residents who have water pumps and call them when their water is to be shut off due to a water issue. Facebook and text messages can also be used.

Mrs. Corsaro offered to help in anyway she can to alleviate this problem. She also praised the town workers for their great work on the water leak. She offered them refreshments as well as the use of her bathroom.

Commissioner Shapiro stated that the school system that notifies residents of school issues is very expensive. A system for Westernport to notify its residents of water leaks, chemical spills, accidents and emergencies would also be very expensive.

Mayor Legge suggested that the council research and discuss this issue at their scheduled work session. It was mentioned that there was some water runoff from Horse Rock and was not from our water lines or from a closed mine.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Commissioner Hamilton with a second from Commissioner Shapiro. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.


Renee Morris, Town Clerk


Laura Freeman-Legge, Mayor