

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
July 6, 2020**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Matt Ray, Judy Hamilton and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Terri Terrant, Kristi Williams, Tim Jackson, Pete Davis, Pam Burkett, LeAnn Abernathy and Charles Long.

Mayor Laura Freeman Legge welcomed all and the meeting opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Allen Shapiro made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes with a second from Commissioner Judy Hamilton. Motion carried. Copies of the minutes are available. The mayor announced that the town election would be on Tuesday, July 7, only four voters would be allowed in the building at a time, voters are to enter by the front door and exit by the side door. Individual pens and hand sanitizer will be provided. The newly elected council members will be sworn in on Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. The next monthly council meeting will be on Monday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

The town received a bid for the 327/329 Maryland Avenue demolition from Carl Belt, Inc. The town had to send a special request to CDBG to accept the one bid. The bid was for \$180,148.00. The town will receive a grant in the amount of \$72,000 for this job. The asbestos in the houses pushed the bid up \$110,000. Work will be done to finish the wall and the stabilization of the wall. Commissioner Shapiro recommends denying the bid and going back in August to CDBG for more funding. The town would not receive these funds, if awarded, until at least October. In the future and if the property is sold, Commissioner Shapiro wants conditions put on the sale. Commissioner Hamilton agreed. Attorney Mike Llewellyn recommended the property be boarded up and secured. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to deny the one bid for 327/329 Maryland Avenue with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro again suggested the town reapply for more grant money, advertise again and requests a minimum of 3 bids.

Piedmont is to buy raw water until their funding is secured for potable water. Westernport has an **INTERIM WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT** with Piedmont. This is a temporary water agreement. Verso is giving Piedmont an easement in order to get this water. Right now the cost will be \$6,775 with 271 taps/customers, \$25 per tap and \$.20 per every \$1,000 gallons used. Commissioner Shapiro feels that this temporary agreement or **INTERIM WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT** should be in affect until 8/1/2021. Agreement will expire in 18 months if not settled. Shut-off terms are the same as in town. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion to accept the **INTERIM WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT** with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Phil Whetstone gave his report. Men are working on water lines.

Police Commissioner Judy Hamilton gave her report. She made a motion we purchase software from Core & Main for the amount of \$1,590 and Hardware for the amount of \$3,035. Commissioner Shapiro made the second and the motion carried.

Finance Commissioner Shapiro gave his report. Garbage rates did go up in July but we were able to accommodate this raise. Copies of the financial report are available. Verso contributed \$7,400 to the Luke Waterline.

General Fund—June--2020

Total Income	\$ 43,403.27
Total Expenses	56,271.62
Net Income	(\$ 11,382.32)

Water Fund---June --2020	
Total Income	\$ 27,410.23
Total Expense	47,996.15
Net Income	(\$ 20,585.92)

Sewer Fund---June---2020	
Total Income	\$ 17,765.00
Total Expense	11,312.34
Net Income	6,452.66

Garbage Fund---June -2020	
Total Income	\$ 12,135.00
Total Expense	20,735.00
Net Income	(\$ 8,600.00)


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

Ms. Kristi Williams gave the Tri-Towns Emergency Medical Services Report. There were 46 Ambulance Calls: 3 Priority 1, 3 Priority 2, 17 Priority 3, 22 Priority 4, 11 Calls to McCoolle, 1 Mutual Aid to Elk Garden, 11 Mutual Aid to Lonaconing and 21 Mutual Aid to 57 (Cancelled 11 times). Kristi continued with some facts: they are billing 70% of calls, subscriptions are still available, lack of volunteers, EMT Certification is free and graduates of Paramedic Training are reimbursed.

Mr. Charles Long stated that the waterline surcharge of \$25 is too high. It was explained to him that before contracts could be signed and water grants and loans be received from USDA, ARC and CDBG, a surcharge of this amount was to be agreed upon by Westernport.

It was announced that the cost of Building Permit is \$25.00.

A motion to close the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.


 Renee Morris, Town Clerk


 Laura Freeman Legge, Mayor