

**Town of Westernport  
Council Meeting  
July 12, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Sarah Llewellyn, Judy Hamilton and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: **Town** Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Jeffery Davis, Sarah Twigg, Pete Davis, Kristi Williams Rusty Wilson, Sharon Wilson and Kitty Mitchell

Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge welcomed all and brought the meeting to order. The group stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Kristi Williams.

The council voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Copies are available. Allegany County Commissioner Jake Shade spoke to his constituents. He thanked all for the opportunity to speak and told the group that Business Grants are available for Covid Relief. He also mentioned that Government Stimulus is also available for those who are eligible. In March the county will receive \$13M, Cumberland, \$20M; and Frostburg, \$7M. There will be money for our downtown Main Street and the county will match. The Internet Broadband will be enhanced. There will be money for a Blight Removal Program.

Mayor Freeman-Legge brought up **ORDINANCE NO. 4.12.21** to be discussed and voted on for the second time. This ordinance pertains to the Lincoln Drive Sewer Project. It involves a general obligation installment bond in the amount not to exceed \$595,000. This project went to bid 7/11/21. We should have a bid in 30 days. Commissioner Hamilton made the motion to pass **ORDINANCE 4.12.21** with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried.

Mayor Freeman-Legge announced that the town has a Contract of Sale on the Carl Belt Building at 50-52 Main Street. It will be the new home of the Westernport City Building and the Town Garage. This building is appraised at \$400,000. Our offer is \$225,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Whetstone to proceed with the offer with a second from Commissioner Llewellyn. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro abstained but stated that this is a good move for the town and should result in revenue for the town.

Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn brought up **RESOLUTION 7.12.2021. TOWN OF WESTERNPORT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.** Mayor Laura Freeman Legge and Commissioner Sarah Llewellyn were authorized to serve as Westernport's agent for the Sustainable Maryland Municipal Certification process and authorize them to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of Westernport. **Commissioner Shapiro made this motion with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried.**

**The ORDINANCE 7.12.21** to purchase The Carl Belt Building for the City Building was discussed and the first reading was held. A General Bond will be purchased from First United Bank and Trust with a longer term. The amount will be \$250,000 for 10 years at 2.615% interest for 10 years. Five years will be fixed and five years will be variable. A motion to approve applying for the loan from First United Bank and Trust was made by Commissioner Llewellyn and seconded by Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro abstained.

Water Commissioner Whetstone gave his report. He mentioned that it was time to renew the Annual Service Agreement for the Filter Plant. The amount will be \$4,594. All agreed to renew. On the utility bills, the past due amount is \$35,271.

Street Commissioner Llewellyn gave her report. She is proud of the work our summer employees are doing. She stated that the Maryland Sustainable Grant Resolution

is more environmentally friendly. Green is the way of the future. She wants residents to give ideas to the council. Volunteers are always welcome. We need a Green Team Plan made up of council members, employees and residents. The group will meet once a month. People from Annapolis will meet with us in the fall. We want to beautify the town. Carl Belt has started paving on Westernport Hill. Paving will then be done on McKinley, Roosevelt and bottom of Greene Street. Lincoln Drive will be coming soon. Code Enforcement Officer Mike Simpson is addressing high grass. Anyone sees tall grass, let us know.

Finance Commissioner Shapiro gave his report. Copies are available. We are waiting on the final payment from the Luke Waterline Project.

Mr. Jeffrey Davis of 311 Maryland Avenue spoke on his many problems at the present time. He was working two jobs but then Covid hit. He lost his jobs, has medical problems and vehicle problems. He has no family support. Town towed his second car in July because of no tags. He now has no car to travel for food and necessary items. Mr. Davis stated that he has a difficult time communicating with the town. He asked, due to Covid, if the town could help him with his situation.

Mrs. Sandy Corsaro of Horse Rock asks about the new Water Distribution System. She was told that Phase IV is in progress right now. We are submitting the PER to the USDA for the Horse Rock Water Line updates now. We hope this will be underway by next summer. The Lincoln Drive Sewer Project will start in about a year. Park Street has been fixed.

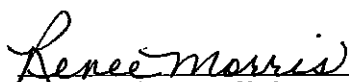
Discussion continued. There are leaks on Horse Rock but snakes are a problem. The DNR will relocate the snakes to Big Run. Mr. Russell Wilson spoke about the hole created by a sewer problem on Doberman Drive. It needs fixed.

Ms. Kristi Williams of the Tri-Towns Rescue Squad spoke. She stated that members of her organization would be willing to help the Green Team. Forty-two calls were made. Some calls were made to McCoole, Piedmont, Keyser and Lonaconing. The subscription cost for one is \$35. For an ambulance trip, the squad will take what insurance pays. The cost for a lifetime subscription is \$200. Sam Metz is in charge of this program. Construction on the new rescue squad doors will start on Monday. It took 20 weeks for the new garage doors to get here. The squad is almost debt free. A lot of fundraising has been done.

It was noted that fire hydrants in town are inspected and replaced as needed.

A special meeting will be held on July 28 at 6 p.m. for the second reading of **ORDINANCE NO. 7.12.21** for the general bond from First United to purchase the Carl Belt Building for the new city building and town garage

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

  
Renee Morris, Town Clerk

  
Laura Freeman-Legge, Mayor