

**Town of Westport
Council Meeting
August 9, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Phil Whetstone, Sarah Llewellyn, Judy Hamilton and Alan Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Pete Davis, Sarah Price, Margaret Ann Wade, Mary Catherine Bernhard, Rhonda Wertman of the Mineral Daily News Tribune and Kristi Williams of the Tri-Towns EMS.

Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge welcomed all. The group stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Kristi Williams. A motion was made by Commissioner Shapiro and seconded by Commissioner Whetstone to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. The next council meeting will be on Monday, September 13 at 7 p.m. The town is presently in Phase IV, AE Part B Procurement of the Water Distribution System. Once this is approved, it will be sent to the Board of Public Works. When it passes the Board, a notice to proceed will be sent to Carl Belt Inc. Hopefully, this will happen by September.

The mayor announced that the town has received a grant agreement to update our boat launch in the amount of \$120,000 Grant Number LG0111-22. Commissioner Hamilton made the motion to accept this grant agreement for the update of our boat launch with a second from Commissioner Llewellyn. Motion carried. Commissioner Llewellyn made a motion to allow Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge to sign off on everything pertaining to this boat launch grant. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bid opening for the Lincoln Drive Project will be tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2 p.m. Discussion on Phases (IV through VII) and/or (V through VII) was done. This project is still in USDA hands. The mayor announced that we should hear by the end of September if we are going to receive the \$247,000 demolition grant money for 327-329 Maryland Ave.

The mayor stated that in the next 2 months a public hearing would be held to discuss CDBG funds. If funds were granted, the mayor would like to put them toward a new salt dome. The mayor would also like to get a feasibility study on our raw water line to see if we can convert it into hydroelectric power. The mayor is working with Frostburg on this since they have already done this.

Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn had nothing to add at this time.

Water Commissioner Phil Whetstone gave his report. There were 185 customers in arrears for a month. Eighty-five (85) of those customers are in arrears for 2 and 3 months. Amount owed the town is \$39,700.

Street Commissioner Sarah Llewellyn gave her report. The Green Team Resolution was passed. We are waiting to hear back from Sustaining Maryland. A local meeting will be scheduled for next month. Commissioner will advertise this meeting and contact volunteers she knows are interested.

Police Commissioner Judy Hamilton gave her report. She commended the fire departments for the good job they did controlling the fire at the Red Man Club last week. Many volunteers came out to help and there was very little damage to the house next door. Commissioner Hamilton reminded all about the Burn Permits and how they work. The first thing residents must do is get a permit from the Allegany County Health Department. The second thing residents must do is contact Westport's Code Enforcement Officer Mike Simpson. He will check on what the resident wants to burn.

Finance Commissioner Alan Shapiro gave his report. This is as of July 31, 2021

	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 135,304.07	\$ 135,691.01
Garbage Fund		9,039.26
Sewer Fund	133,614.86	128,111.27
Water Fund	189,289.56	110,365.62

NOTE: Ending balance of water fund would have been higher if \$50,000 had not been taken out for a brush truck for the fire company. A motion was made to accept the financial report and seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Shapiro continued. The town has taken on many projects involving over \$20M over the last few years. This has been discussed in several work sessions. Commissioner Shapiro feels that it is necessary for the town to hire an administrator and a leader to follow through with these many costly projects. Commissioner Shapiro talked with the MML and was told that over 80% of municipalities in Maryland have administrators. Commissioner Shapiro is recommending that Westernport hire a town administrator. No other employee changes are being done. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion that the Town of Westernport hire an administrator. Commissioner Llewellyn mentioned that this is good because all town business will continue on well and as planned through each new mayor and council. Commissioner Whetstone made the second. Motion carried.


Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge made the motion that this position be advertised on **Indeed** and on **Facebook** for thirty days.

Ms. Kristi Williams spoke on behalf of the Tri-Towns EMS. Remodeling has begun on their building. The building will be getting new garage doors, a new black metal roof, a new deck and a separate platform for a generator. The purchase of a generator will allow the rescue squad to be a weather/emergency shelter. Ms. Williams also mentioned the painting that will be done and it will be the scheme similar to the ambulances. Kristi suggested residents check out their website for their fundraisers. The latest is for funnel cakes. Kristi thanked the town workers for cutting down the brush at the Waverly Street Bridge and for the town hiring young men from the community to work for the town.

Ms. Sarah Price told the audience that drivers are not obeying the Stop Sign on Central Avenue. She complained that only certain street areas of Greene's Addition are patched. Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge told her that complete paving would be done when all construction is completed. The mayor is hoping that Roosevelt and McKinley Streets will be paved before the blacktop plants are closed for the winter. The Belt Company is through on Westernport Hill and paving could also be done there. Ms. Price asks about the lines painted on certain streets and roads in Westernport. The mayor told her that the county did this painting some years ago and she will see if they will do it again.

Mrs. Bernhard asks if the sidewalk going up Lincoln Drive on the right side could be removed. She was told that Roderick Furniture Outlet owns part of this sidewalk.

A motion was made to close meeting with a second. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.


Renee Morris, Town Clerk


Laura Freeman-Legge, Mayor