

**Town of Westernport  
Council Meeting  
May 9, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Phil Whetstone, Judy Hamilton and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Richard Walls, Pete Davis, Kristi Williams.

Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge thanked all for coming and ask Kristi Williams to lead the group in prayer after the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made by Commissioner Hamilton with a second by Commissioner Shapiro. Motion carried. The mayor told the audience that the town election would be on Tuesday, May 24 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. The swearing-in ceremony and town council meeting will be on Monday, June 6, at 7 p.m.

The Lincoln Drive Project is pretty well complete. Two manholes had to be put in and now the inspection will be done. The mayor stated that we must move forward with our USDA Engineering application for Phases 4 thru 7 of the Water Distribution System. The town has applied to MDE in the past. When construction starts it will be Phases 5 thru 7 and cannot exceed \$18.5M. Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge explained the intricacies of these applications. Commissioner Hamilton made the motion to continue to apply for Phases 4 thru 7 with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried.

The town will be putting out for bids again a Ford Diesel Truck. The information, along with pictures, will be put on Facebook. There are things wrong with the truck but nobody has been able to explain these items to Laura. She hesitates to advertise the truck until she knows what is wrong with it. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to put the truck out for bids again with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried.

The mayor discussed the town garage of Chestnut Street. It was surveyed with much difficulty. The lot is split between the town and the county. Therefore, the property had to go through the county zoning process. Much has to be explained and cleared up before the council puts the old town garage up for bids. Commissioner Hamilton stated that our town workers would like for the town to keep the old garage. She suggested that the council meet with the town workers and listen to their reasoning for wanting to hold onto the old town garage. Commissioner Shapiro said he would like to meet with the town workers and discuss this subject. The selling of the old town garage will be put on hold for now.

Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge talked **about A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WESTERNPORT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARYLAND CIRCUIT RIDER /TOWN MANAGER PROGRAM NO. 5-9-22-1.** This is for the current year 7/1/21 to 6/30/22. **Commissioner Hamilton made this motion to accept Resolution 5-9-22-1 with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried.**

Then the mayor brought up **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WESTERNPORT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARYLAND CIRCUIT RIDER/TOWN MANAGER PROGRAM NO. 5-9-22-2.** This will be for the year July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. **Commissioner Shapiro made the motion to accept Resolution 5-9-22-2 with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried.** Commissioner Shapiro told all that the town does not pay for this circuit rider service. The State of Maryland pays for this.

Commissioner Whetstone gave the Water Report. He talked about parts for the Generator at our Filter Plant. This subject was tabled last month. The bid was very vague but we do need parts and labor on our Generator. A new bid from Johnston's Garage was received with more explanation. Commissioner Whetstone made a motion to purchase parts and pay for labor for our backup Generator from Johnston's Garage for up to \$6,000. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Tim Jackson, Water Superintendent, informed Commissioner Whetstone that the town needs to buy a Ph Probe. This probe measures the Ph in our drinking water. The mayor approved this. The town will be purchasing this probe for \$1200.

The town has 137 customers on the shut-off list with late penalties of \$3,425. The outstanding amount is \$33,308.04.

Commissioner Hamilton gave the Police Report. She has had a lot of calls from our Code Enforcement Officer about cars on the streets with no tags or expired tags. Mr. Simpson would like Commissioner Hamilton to contact Sheriff Robertson and see what can be done about this. The sheriff said we could tag the vehicles and give the owners 48 hours to get them off the streets. If they are not removed, the town can have them removed. Sheriff Robertson offered his assistance.

Commissioner Hamilton reminded all residents to keep their grass cut and not let it get too high. The town has ordinances referring to this issue. She also asks residents not throw the grass out onto the street. It can cause accidents.

The mayor brought up the subject of the new city building and whether the council wanted to have the June 6 council meeting there. The large room will be ready. The council agreed to have the June 6 council meeting in the new city building. The council also decided to have the town election at the old city building. The mayor is applying (the first step) for a grant for the Opioid Epidemic. If we would get this, it would be a yearly contract. It would mean we could hire a social worker for 40 hours a week.


Commissioner Shapiro gave the Financial Report.

	General Fund	Water	Sewer	Garbage
April 1, 2022	\$ 186,041.75	\$ 41,482.35	\$106,523.54	\$ 9,514.26
April 30, 2022	\$ 319,997.58	\$186,888.02	\$132,425.26	\$13,184.99

Commissioner Whetstone made a motion that the council accepts the Financial Report with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro brought up the subject of Girls Softball in Westernport. They're about 50 girls interested in this sport. A lot of kids are getting interested in little league. We do not have a young Girls Softball Field. Commissioner Shapiro is recommending the town put in for a grant to upgrade the field. This would include new dugouts, fencing, soil and the correct area required. Mayor Laura Freeman-Legge stated that the town would be responsible for 10% of the cost of this upgrade and the total cost could go up to \$50,000. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion to apply to Program Open Space (Parks and Playgrounds) for a grant with a second from Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried.

Ms. Kristi Williams spoke on behalf of the TTARS. She stated that her organization supports local sports and will support the upgrade of the ball fields. Their website is up and running. The first raffle winner was Sue Broadwater. She won a grill. All the subscription money goes straight to M & T Bank. About 15 checks have not been received. The group is working diligently to solve the missing checks problem. Memberships will be honored if they are still questions on June 30, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Whetstone with a second by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

  
Renee Morris, Town Clerk

  
Laura Freeman-Legge, Mayor