

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
July 11, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Eric Alexander, Kristie Williams and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Dick Walls, Sandy Corsaro, Pete Davis, Rhonda Wertman of the Keyser Paper, Mary Catherine Bernhard and Margaret Ann Wade

Mayor Judy Hamilton brought the meeting to order and welcomed all. The group stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Rev. Bill Shimer. A motion was made by Commissioner Kristie Williams to dispense with the reading of the minutes with a second from Commissioner Allen Shapiro. Motion carried. The next monthly council meeting will be at the newly purchased and renovated city building at 50 Main St. Meeting will be on Monday, August 8, 7 p.m.

Mayor Hamilton brought up the demolition bid from Carl Belt on 327 and 329 Maryland Avenue. Three companies came to look at the project but two bids came in. Carl Belt's bid was for \$295,750.00 and Earth Movers was \$123,879.00. The mayor asks for input from the council. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion to accept the bid from Earth Movers for \$123,879.00 with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried. The town has been promised \$180,000 from CDBG. There will be no cost to the town.

The council then discussed **RESOLUTION No. 7.11.22**. This is for siding and a mural for the side of the new city building facing the parking lot. The town may apply to the Community Legacy Program for a grant for this siding and mural. We are estimating that we will need \$69,360 and the deadline for the application is July 13. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve **RESOLUTION No. 7.11.22 with a second** from Commissioner Shapiro. Motion carried.

Mayor Hamilton mentioned the yellow lines that were painted on Main Street, Main Street Extended and Lincoln Drive. She also brought up the fact that it is time to renew our Reader Meter Maintenance Agreement with Core & Main for a cost of \$6,985.00. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to accept this agreement with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

Mayor Hamilton told the group that the town is in the process of moving to the new city building and water bill payments can be placed in the newly installed drop box at the new city building. Both buildings will be closed during the week of July 11 but payments will be processed.

Mayor Hamilton contacted Sheriff Robertson again about the problem of 4-Wheelers on our streets and the drivers' disregard for the law. The sheriff told Mayor Hamilton that he does have some additional money and he will put it toward officers' pay to work these areas. These officers will be visiting the parents, giving warnings and issuing \$500 fines when necessary.

Mayor Hamilton gave the Water Report. There are 149 customers on the shut-off list with \$3,735.00 in late fees. The outstanding amount right now is \$38,943.28.

Commissioner Alexander gave the Street Report. The county has some additional money for paving, resurfacing and sealing streets in municipalities and they will be working in Westernport in the coming days. Glenn Green will be making a list of what needs to be done and what is a priority. The town does have student summer help.

Commissioner Williams gave the Police Report. Commissioner Williams has been working with Code Enforcement Officer Mike Simpson on the Improvement Westernport Project. A lot of the applications have been completed incorrectly. The grant for the resident for a property improvement project could be up to 50% or \$500 whichever is less. This grant money is for a new project and the application must be

accompanied by an estimate of the project. Mike will be calling people who submitted applications and he will be checking on the potential improvement projects. If anyone has any questions or have submitted an inaccurate application, they should call Mike. When the \$10,000 is spent, the grant project will be over. Announcements concerning this project will be put on Facebook.

Commissioner Shapiro gave the Financial Report.

As of June 1, 2022	General	Water	Sewer	Garbage
	\$106,082.64	\$153,211.51	\$154,969.18	\$14,593.64
As of June 30, 2022	\$194,718.21	\$132,943.52	\$152,689.98	\$14,552.64

It was moved and seconded that the Financial Report be accepted. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro mentioned that the cost of fuel has sky rocketed and he suggested moving \$10,000 from the equipment fund to the fuel fund. It was discussed. Commissioner Williams made the motion to move \$10,000 from the equipment fund to the fuel fund with a second from Commissioner Alexander. The budget revision will be made. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams, as a member of the Tri-Towns EMS, gave their report. Some 108 mailed subscriptions were found and have been processed. Some people had stopped payment on their checks because they were mailed in March and April. A second request for subscriptions will be mailed out in August. The return address will say M & T Bank and the organization has asked the post office to keep these subscriptions local.

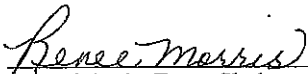
Commissioner Shapiro noted that July 19 is Election Day but there is early voting at the county building on Kelly Road in Cumberland. The mayor announced that she is working with the county to improve lighting on Horserock.

Mr. Dick Walls, of Jamesson Avenue, spoke on the high grass and vines on the Mike Deniker property. Some mowing was done but it is still a mess. Also, he mentioned the potholes on Oakview.

Mrs. Sandy Corsaro of Horserock spoke about squatters living at the end of Maryland Avenue. The DNR and the Sheriff's Department have been contacted about this. Hopefully, the people can be moved from the property. Mrs. Corsaro, as well as, Commissioner Williams have encourage residents to say something if they see something wrong in the community. She mentioned that it is a shame that police are been held to unattainable standards. It appears that the Maryland State Police Academy cannot fill the positions needed. Commissioner Williams attended a police seminar on the subject of police losing their protection. Mrs. Corsaro talked about her Facebook being hacked. People should be award that this can happen.

Commissioner Shapiro reminded Commissioner Williams that there is \$40,000 in the budget for policing of some kind. He continued to remind all that we are still working with Luke and the sheriff's office to have a police presence in Luke and Westernport.

Motion to adjourn and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Renee Morris, Town Clerk



Judy Hamilton, Mayor