

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
August 8, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Eric Alexander and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Pam Burkett, Steve Householder, Tim Dayton, Paul Metz, Bill Kight, Jr., Travis Moran, Mark Alexander, Dick Walls, Pete Davis, Rev. Bill Shimer, Sharon Wilson, Rusty Wilson, Sandy Corsaro and Rhonda Wertman of the Keyser Paper

Mayor Judy Hamilton welcomed all and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Rev. Shimer. The minutes were approved with a motion from Commissioner Shapiro and seconded by Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried. Copies are available. The town building will be closed on September 5 for Labor Day. September 12 will be the next council meeting with an Open House and Ribbon Cutting. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting. The time will be 6:30 p.m. The city building will be closed from 12:30 p.m. until 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

Everything has been approved for the Phase IV Project except the money is not in yet. The Lincoln Drive Project has been completed and the town is working on the payouts. Earth Movers will start demolition on 327 and 329 Maryland Avenue on this Thursday. Our library is holding a Mini Market for Kids. Kids can learn about nutrition and grocery shopping. The Allegany County Library System is partnering with the Western Maryland Food Bank and UPMC. Participants must register.

Mayor Judy Hamilton announced that the town is working with the sheriff's department on the problem of 4Wheeler on our streets. The sheriff has addressed this problem with parents and it seems to have helped. The mayor has not seen a 4Wheeler on her street since law enforcement has been working on the problem.

Commissioner Whetstone gave the Water Report. The unpaid amount for the month of July is \$34,566.78 with 159 on the shut-off list. \$3,985.00 has accumulated for the late fee with the overall outstanding amount as \$38,551.78. Commissioner Whetstone presented a quote from HACH SERVICE PARTNERSHIP for \$5,460.00 for parts and labor for the Filter Plant. This is a one-year contract running from 9/14/22 until 9/13/23. A motion was made by Commissioner Alexander to approve this contract with HACH and a second came from Commissioner Shapiro. Motion carried. Commissioner Shapiro was wondering how much the contract cost last year.

Commissioner Alexander gave the Street Report. He has been working with Glenn regarding the Chip Seal Resurfacing by the county at the end of the month. We will need a list of streets in need. The men are working on water line repairs. Painting Red and Yellow Lines in town is in the planning. We are working with John McMillen of the county to help us with town signage.

Commissioner Shapiro gave the Financial Report. The commissioner reported that the town received the second half of their money from the American Rescue Act in the amount of \$850,915.30. Some of the money is earmarked for Phase IV of our water project so we will not have to borrow money. It will be used also on the leak on the Westernport/Piedmont Bridge. The powers that be are allowing us to move money from the Lincoln Drive Project to the Phase IV Project. Westernport will have to pay \$150,000 of this debit. After all of this, Westernport will have approximately \$400,000 left. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to put this money (from the American Rescue Act) in a separate fund (rainy day fund) to be used as directed: infrastructure, tourism, etc. Commissioner Shapiro stated that he would like the council to vote unanimously on any expenditure of this money. Commissioner Whetstone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

As of July 1, 2022	General	Water	Sewer	Garbage
	\$186,286.22	\$111,693.52	\$152,689.98	\$ 14,552.64

As of July 31, 2022 \$109,602.76 \$ 84,591.65 \$136,299.77 \$ 17,339.38

Commissioner Shapiro announced that our insurance payment to LGIT came out of all 3 funds. This is an annual payment and comes to \$30,000 to \$40,000. Commissioner Shapiro made the motion to approve the financial report with a second from Commissioner Alexander. Motion carried.

Travis Moran spoke on behalf of the Potomac Fire Company #22 Fire Company. The company is interested in acquiring the old city building and the adjacent lot. Commissioner Shapiro stated that these properties would have to be declared surplus and then legal proceeding would start. Commissioner Shapiro said that our attorney would be contacted and the council would have a work session to further discuss this issue.

Pam Burkett of the Rescue Squad stated that they also are interested in the old city building as well as the lot. On another issue she stated that the young people of this community have nothing to do. Dirt bikes and 4Wheeler do offer them an activity. Who are complaining? What harm are they causing? Are they harming people and property? Pam made note that there are drugs on our streets. Mayor Hamilton spoke on the many complaints of damages caused by dirt bikes and 4Wheeler up and down Georges' Creek. She also stated that a former council made 4Wheeler in town illegal. The sheriff's department is very concerned about people being hurt and property being damaged by the dirt bikes and 4Wheeler. The sheriff's department will talk to the parents of the drivers, confiscate the bikes and even take the owners/riders to court if necessary.

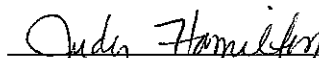
Sharon Wilson questioned why the Registration of Rental Properties was raised to \$50 and Inspections of Rental Properties was raised to \$50. She stated that Cumberland only charges \$25. An area of Pokemoke Road needs to be repaired where there is a stop sign. The stop sign was put in place but the road was not repaired. Will the county or Westernport be repairing this? Sharon spoke on the drugs on Poplar and Vine Streets as well as Maryland Avenue. What are the police doing about this? Mayor Hamilton stated to all that they should continue to make phone calls to the police. It takes time to make a successful drug bust. The police are watching these areas. Commissioner Shapiro told the group that 5 arrests were made recently of Westernport residents. He has no problem declaring our parks and all public areas as "Drug Free Zones" and ordering signs to say this. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion for signs with a second from Commissioner Alexander. Motion carried.

Commissioner Alexander mentioned that DNR officers are in town checking on the homeless problem.

Sandy Corsaro spoke on the high amount of money that is owed by residents on their utility bills. She also addressed the 4Wheeler problem and the drug problem in Westernport. Mayor Hamilton told her that it was decided that anyone owing \$250 or more would have to meet with a town representative and work out a payment plan. She stated that there is a government fund to help these people but they have to apply. The staff does not like to turn anyone's water off.

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


Renee Morris, Town Clerk


Judy Hamilton, Mayor