

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
October 3, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kristi Williams, Eric Alexander and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Town Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Sharon Wilson, Rusty Wilson, Sandy Corsaro, Mary Catherine Bernhard, Margaret Ann Wade, Rev. William Shimer, Candidate Jim Hinebaugh, Delegate Wendell Beitzel and Dick Walls

A moment of silence was held for Glenn Shingler a longtime friend of Westernport and our Santa Claus for many years.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Rev. Shimer. Mayor Judy Hamilton asks for a motion to approve the minutes as read. This motion was made by Commissioner Eric Alexander and seconded by Commission Kristi Williams. Motion carried. Copies are available. The Mummers Parade will be held on Saturday, October 29. The line-up will be at 12:30 in Piedmont with the start at 1 p.m. The participants will march to the Westernport Ball Field. Trick or Treat for Halloween will be on Monday, October 31, from 6 until 8 p.m. The next council meeting will be on Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m. The Washington Street Water/Bridge Project is coming to a close. Still to come are some brackets to secure the water line. Mayor Hamilton is going to look into opening the bridge at night.

Our security company started on Saturday night this week. The men are keeping a log, checking our parks and enforcing the closing of the parks and just keeping an eye on things in town. We have ordered emblems for their vehicles. They will be working for sure every Friday and Saturday nights, but the other days will change. The officers will be in town 5 nights a week.

The town will be close on Monday, Oct. 10, for Columbus Day. Friday was the *kickoff* day for Phases 5 - 7 of the Water Distribution System. We are starting the planning process and hopefully next year we will be planning the process of finishing our Water Distribution System.

Mayor Hamilton had a meeting with Piedmont Commissioner Greg Harvey on Piedmont's Water Contract. He said Piedmont is exploring other options. The Westernport Council will not be renewing Piedmont's Water Contract until something definite comes up. Keyser wants to give them water. Piedmont wants their own water line. Westernport will wait and see.

The mayor noted that 4-Wheeler were absent for some time but they are now back. The mayor will look into a stricter policy regarding this issue. Mayor Hamilton praised and thanked Doug Wade for his work on the Plaza Shrubs. He has volunteered to improve the area. She also thanked the town water crew for working on the manganese problem. Our water has always been in the acceptable range. Mrs. Sharon Wilson asked about the Horserock Water Lines. The mayor stated that the flushing of the Horserock water lines was started but she was not sure how far the workers got with this. Commissioner Alexander stated that this Horserock project got stalled due to work to prepare for the possibility of Hurricane Ian coming this way.

Mayor Hamilton told the group that the council is working with our lawyer on purchasing the Maryland Avenue Ball Fields and we are making progress. Mrs. Sandy Corsaro has agreed to work with the town in getting Veteran and First Responder flags made and put up in Westernport. The council will be asking for donations to this project to defray the cost to the families of our Veterans and First Responders. For the month of October next year, we would like to have the flags of Fire Fighters and so honor. For the month of November next year, we would like to have the flags of Veterans and in May of next year, we would put up the flags of our EMS Volunteers.

Mayor Hamilton gave the Water Report. There are 155 customers on the shut-off list with the penalty amount being \$3,915.00. The total outstanding is \$49,978.33. The

As of Sept. 30, 2022 \$139,202.57 \$ 43,608.77 \$152,623.90 \$13,832.98

Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to approve the Financial Report with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried. The mayor stated that the town has received a contract from Burgmeier Hauling and will be meeting with the company soon.

Delegate Wendell Beitzel spoke and stated it was a pleasure to serve Westernport in his 16 years in the Maryland Legislature. He told the group that District 1A was Georges Creek and Garrett County but because of redistricting after the last census; it now goes farther east. He mentioned that State Senator George Edwards is also retiring from public service. Delegate Beitzel said it has been an honor to serve the great people in Western Maryland and bids us "farewell." Mayor Hamilton stated that Delegate Beitzel has been a great friend to Westernport. Delegate Beitzel mentioned that he worked with the UPRC.

Delegate Beitzel introduced Delegate Candidate Jim Hinebaugh. He had high praises for Jim and told the audience of his career and military service. Jim retired as a colonel. He was a Garrett County Commissioner for 8 years.

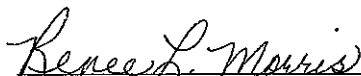
Mrs. Sandy Corsaro brought up the fact that rights have been taken away from our police. This needs to change. There was much discussion on this subject. Delegate Beitzel stated that funding needs to be restored to the police. Communities should write letters. We should show our support for our police. Candidate Hinebaugh thanked Westernport for its support and reminded all that the election is Nov. 8. We have lost population since the last census. If elected, Jim will do all he can for Westernport.

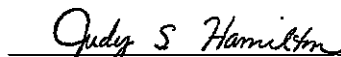
Commissioner Williams gave the Tri-Towns EMS report. Generator has been received but gas lines are now needed for the generator. This endeavor (to be a shelter) by the rescue squad must be registered with the state. Building repairs are completed. Timer lights are not coming on, but this will be handled.

Mrs. Sandy Corsaro thanked all for their help. She said the town has a lot to offer but things can get better. Commissioner Alexander stated that Westernport is blessed to have a fire company, EMS, volunteers, and little league coaches. Commissioner Williams told the group that there are open communications with the county. She has a meeting scheduled next week with Sheriff Robertson and Brett Leisinger. Also, we have on board JD and Associates Security Company. Mayor Hamilton stated that the security company keeps good logs.

Commissioner Shapiro told the group about the Grandparents Dinner at Westernport Elementary School. It was very, very nice and all had a good time.

Motion to adjourn with a second. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.


Renee L. Morris, Town Clerk


Judy Hamilton, Mayor