

**Town of Westernport  
Council Meeting  
January 9, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Kristi Williams, Eric Alexander, and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Sharon and Rusty Wilson, Sandi Corsaro, Laura Freeman Legge

Mayor Judy Hamilton welcomed all and the meeting opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hamilton announced that the minutes from the previous meeting are not posted until approved by the council which happens at the following monthly meeting. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the reading of the minutes with a second from Commissioner Whetstone. Motion carried. Copies of the minutes are available. The mayor announced that the next monthly council meeting will be on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Water Phases 5 – 7 update, the Town will be participating in PACE meetings on the third week of January, where they are trying to receive 25% more grant funding from USDA-RD. They will also be presenting in preparation to apply for funds to demolish the former Town Hall. 327-329 Maryland Ave. Demolition update, the buildings are down, but the retaining wall still needs to be installed and they will be spraying a rubber spray on the building side.

Water Commissioner Phil Whetstone gave his report. Late Penalty list has 119 Customers with late penalties at \$4,005.00. A total balance of \$28,663.00. Which is down 40 customers from last month. Commissioner Shapiro states that there is money available through the state that is a great opportunity for citizens on the penalty list to apply for. Several households have applied previously and their bill was paid off by a check sent to the Town. They will double check to make sure it is on the Town's website.

Street Commissioner Eric Alexander gave his report. Street Department responded to 2 winter storms in December. An ice storm on the 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> and a Bomb Cyclone on December 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 2 water main leaks in December which were repaired with minimal service disruption. One was on the intersection of Rt 36 and Washington Street, and the other was on Roosevelt Street. Two loads of salt have been ordered and received. Cold patch has been ordered to fix areas where water lines have been repaired. He has received a quote for crusher run for Marsh Avenue, no motion is needed to accept since it's within budget limits. He is working on getting a quote for Magnetic locks for the council chamber room. Commissioner Alexander wanted to publicly thank Renee Morris and Glenn Greene for their assistance in collection cost data for on and off-road fuel expenses. They have moved the security truck to a smaller bay to save energy on heat loss for the main garage. The office thermostat has been reprogrammed to conserve heat, and they are working on sealing the openings around the utilities entering the building to conserve more energy.

Police Commissioner Kristi Williams gives her report. Businesses in town have been thankful for the security the Town has brought on. There were a few instances where businesses were having issues around the business and with the increased security stops the issues have stopped. Commissioner Williams wanted to remind residents that they have 48 hours to remove snow from your sidewalks.

Finance Commissioner Shapiro gave his report. He will be working with Jason from Meadowtech to make changes in the report to include profit and loss.

General Fund—December--2022

Beginning of Month	\$287,244.27
End of Year	\$380,554.96

Water Fund---December --2022

Beginning of Month	\$119,037.56
End of Year	\$166,353.66

Sewer Fund---December---2022  
Beginning of Month \$156,386.00  
End of Year \$167,474.77

Garbage Fund---December --2022  
Beginning of Month \$31,505.57  
End of Year \$22,507.57

Commissioner Whetstone made a motion to accept the December Financial Report with a second from Commissioner Alexander. Motion carried.

The Town held a work session in December where Commissioner Greg Harvey of Piedmont attended to discuss the purchase agreements between Westernport and Piedmont. The current agreement has expired Commissioner Shapiro makes it clear that Westernport wants to provide the City of Piedmont with potable water, we don't want them to use federal funds to build a 6-mile line to the City of Keyser. Commissioner Shapiro motions that we agree to a 6 month water agreement to supply Piedmont with Raw Water at \$3,000 per month. Question from Sandi Corsaro in the audience on if Piedmont has paid their bill. A large check came in last week, but the council was unsure of exact amount since it was not present, the amounts will show in the January Financial Report. Much Discussion. A line going under the bridge to Piedmont would be beneficial to the Town of Westernport because more customers benefit the Town. Piedmont is currently under a boil water advisory again. WV delegation is telling Piedmont they have to connect, there are questions on if CSX will approve a permit to build the line. Commissioner Alexander questions the price decrease to Piedmont and if it is too much. Commissioner Shapiro states that the original contract was for Piedmont to connect into Westernport under the Potomac, but the engineering firm has said that is no longer possible, so the agreement needs to be amended. Sandi Corsaro states that we are asking residents to stay current on their bill or we shut them off, yet we are giving it to a town that isn't paying their bills. Much Discussion. Attorney Llewellyn states it is Westernport's responsibility to supply water as the regional water supplies. More discussion. Commissioner Shapiro updates motions on table to update water purchase agreement to agree for 1 year at a \$3,000 monthly rate. Commissioner Whetstone Seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Ms. Sandi Corsaro commends the Mayor and Council for the dedication and time that goes into what they do, a lot of people have left the area and not many of the people left are willing to get involved.

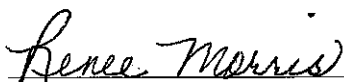
Ms. Sharon Wilson asks if the agenda can be posted ahead of the meeting, and was wondering about the water rate increase. The Water Rate Schedule documents were provided at the meeting and will be sent out in the mail with the water bills. .

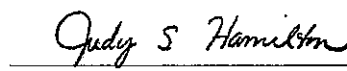
Ms. Kristi Williams gave the Tri-Towns Emergency Medical Services Report.

The new officers are as follows:

President - Kristi Williams  
Vice President - Nathan Rosier  
Secretary- Brittany White  
Quartermaster - Noah Cummings and Orrie Zais  
Chief- Pam Burkett Deputy Chief - Chris Lafferty  
LOSAP Officer - Carey Williams

A motion to close the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

  
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Renee Morris, Town Clerk

  
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Judy Hamilton, Mayor