

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
February 6, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Kristi Williams, Eric Alexander

ATTENDEES: Greg Harvey, Tim Jackson, Laura Freeman Legge, Pete Davis, Dick Walls, Sharon and Rusty Wilson, Sandi Corsaro, Attorney Mike Llewellyn, Rhonda Wertman

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. Council meeting Monday March 6th @ 7 PM Holiday closing Feb 20th president's day Read a small thank you card that we have received from Piedmont residents

"On behalf of the City of Piedmont we would like to thank you for your patience and understanding concerning the city's water bill. Thank you for working with us to find us a resolution for our bill. We sincerely appreciate all you have done for us and our citizens." Signed by Council Members and citizens of Piedmont.

Policy and procedures manual needs approved – 2 changes will be vacation schedules needs approved by Mayor or appropriate commissioners and vacation time may no longer be cashed in

Eric moves Kristi 2nds. Motion Carries

Update Phases – PACE thinks we did a good job of asking for more money to help with that project BBA did a great presentation, she does have pace book if anyone would like to look at it, we also asked for demo of building and to replace sanitary sewer for the town. We are still working to acquire land for the tanks

Demo update – questions about the wall, initial project showed large wall, RKK looked at a wall that makes more sense and they will be moving forward with that. It looks really nice.

In March mayor has been asked to read at after school program, so she will be doing that

Mike – Following up on Phases 5-7 asking council to ratify, the Town was able to purchase lot on Horserock from Harlingen's for \$21,300 – we now have the property allowing BBA to move forward, Eric Motions Phil 2nds. Motion carries

We still need one more property for the Philos Area but BBA said they may want to move where the location is, so that may change who the land owner is, hopefully next month we will be asking for a ratification. BBA is worried about timeline for permitting. Question from audience on where the Philos pump house is and it is where the old Boy Scout camp was.

Phil – When we went to PACE in January our mayor did a great job. I've been to several and there was more people than ever before. Presentation she made was fabulous, she was right to the point and explained everything that we needed to get and did an excellent job.

Penalty register down to 111 late penalty fee was \$26,797.08. Several people have applied to get pay from the state there are 19 currently, but it does not showed paid until Town receives the funds from the state.

Two fire hydrants with leaks were repaired during the month of January. (1 on Central & Green and the second on Maryland avenue)

We received a call New Year's Day from a resident with a sewer issue. Sewer was opened by town personal. (On Jan. 9th a video inspection found no issues with the resident's line to and including the main line. A letter will be sent to the resident stating the same).

There is a fire hydrant in the museum parking lot at upper main street that needs protected, so vehicles cannot strike it. (We are in the process of acquiring material for this job).

Fuel oil usage in the garage for the month of January was eight inches which equates to 176 to 200 gallons used. (The tank was filled by Willison Oil Company on December 9th at a cost of \$3.95 per gallon, eighty five cents per gallon less than a supplier we have been using. Approximately thirty six inches at the time of filling. Total heating cost for January for the garage is \$695.00-\$790.00. The current level of twenty five inches equals 550 to 625 gallon) I want to give credit to Glenn Greene and his street crew for their help and cooperation in minimizing garage door opening etc especially during the recent winter snow and ice events.

We will be starting to check our grass trimmers and mowers over so we have necessary service and repairs made before grass cutting season starts.

(Allegany College did offer a small engine repair class last Spring semester in the evenings. The cost was around \$45.00. This may be something we want to consider sending one of the men to if interested. There are dollars to be saved if we can do some in-house small engine service and repairs ourselves).

I asked the men to start some of our clean-up for our Creekside Park planters, as well as the parking lot across from Boals a little earlier than we normally would. These planters are very over grown and volunteers, with hand tools, wouldn't be able to remove the over grown planting. We put down a layer of mulch in the planter across from Boals. It is five feet in width. Someone parking and going to church, or the funeral home could be stepping in mud if we had nothing in place. (It has been reported in the Cumberland paper that the TV show American Pickers would be in Allegany County in March. Also bee activity, if any, would be minimal. We had one employee stung around twenty times last summer and are trying to prevent this as much as possible. So hopefully, should Westernport be featured on the TV show this will be more pleasing to the public and the viewers. That is why I moved earlier than I normally would have, plus the weather was favorable).

Measurements have been submitted to a local nursery for suggestions on plants and quotes for Creekside Parks' three planters. I have spoken with a representative of a local church organization that is willing to make a donation for some, possibly all, of the plants for Creekside Park. And there is a merchant that is willing to sale to the town, at their cost, stain needed for the buildings at Creekside. I would like to do one building a year. And, as I mentioned in our November meeting, I am still working on building a team of volunteers to help with some of this work. I will be sending letters to the middle and high school as well to see if students need their community service hours.

Lastly, I can report progress with the tree removal from the channel behind the Legion to where Georges Creek empties into the Potomac. Later this week, or next I am going to be doing a site visit with representatives from the DNR and hopefully, the State Highway Administration. Hopefully our circuit rider, Laura, and these agencies can secure some flood mitigation grants or other funding sources to help with this project.

Tree Removal behind the American Legion, Floods from '95 and 96 were all considered 50 year floods, so it's important we try to do this.

Kristi, Security team here 6 nights a week if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Kristi here at the office and she will call you back. In speaking with Town attorney, the NFPA has an app to get the current codes and it's updated immediately. That app will be able to assist Mike (code enforcement) you have 24 hours after any storm to clean your sidewalks. Make sure that you park on the side of the street so the plow trucks can get through. There were some concerns with smaller areas to get through, as long as you're parking in the right direction, the plow trucks will be able to pass safely through there.

Allen not present – but he will review and we can approve financial report at next meeting

Dick – if he doesn't pay his bill will someone pay it for him?

If residents apply for program the Town has to accept it.

Sandi – The drug problem we have in Westernport right now, is almost worse than Cumberland – Police officers are hurting they are unable to get the people out there. They have lost their qualified immunity. If you see something call the police, it helps. It's just to let people know it's not that police offices don't want to do it, it's that they don't have the manpower to do it.

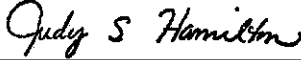
Comcast – Mostly everyone has Comcast in the town. One of the things the technician has told them, every time there is an outage no matter how long you need to call. There more that call the more likely we are to get the response. Lines are really old, we have new technology going into old lines.

Kristi – Eye on Westernport is not the compliant center no one from Comcast is looking at that site, so if you don't call into the center they don't know.

Motion to adjourned Kristi – Eric 2nd. Motion Carries.



Renee Morris, Town Clerk



Judy Hamilton, Mayor