

**Town of Westernport
Council Meeting
Regular Public Meeting
May 8, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS: Phil Whetstone, Kristi Williams, and Allen Shapiro

ATTENDEES: Pete Davis, Dick Walls, Laura Freeman Legge, Jim Wills, Mike Llewellyn, Dawne Lindsay, and Rhonda Wertman of the Mineral Daily News Tribune

Mayor Hamilton opened the regularly scheduled public meeting after the closure of the public hearings. There is an empty commissioner seat, vacated by Eric Alexander. Mayor Hamilton recommends the appointment of Jim Wills. Commissioner Whetstone moves to appoint Jim Wills, Commissioner Shapiro seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Dawne D. Lindsay, Clerk of Circuit Court Allegany County, swears in Commissioner Wills.

Commissioner Williams motions to approve minutes as read for previous meeting. Commissioner Whetstone seconds motion. Motion carries. Mayor Hamilton brings up the approval of the Town Attorney for the FY 2023-2024. Commissioner Williams motions to approve Mike Llewellyn as the attorney for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Commissioner Shapiro seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Mayor Hamilton says that the City Clerk will be out for an undetermined amount of time, her family is in our prayers. Under advice of attorney town must appoint an interim Clerk. Commissioner Shapiro motions to appoint Laura Freeman Legge as interim clerk until Renee Morris has returned. Commissioner Williams seconds. Motion carries.

Offices will be closed for Memorial Day on May 29th. The grant on girls' softball has been passed by the Board of Public Works. The softball team has asked us to wait until season is ended. We will work with Hot Stove to get a portable mound so that every child has an opportunity to play. Mayor Hamilton makes says the Water Phases 5-7 are moving forward as scheduled. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on June 5th at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Whetstone says as of June 1st Jim Wills will be the water commissioner and Phil will be Streets Commission. Commissioner Wills is very knowledgeable in the water area as he was a Filter Plant operator for over 21 years. We are down to \$20,950.91 that needs to be collected from the water shut-off list.

Commissioner Kristi Williams speaks about attending 111 banquet for Potomac Fire Company, they have another big year with things coming up, they have purchased a Brush Truck, Mayor Hamilton presented them with their check at the banquet.

Commissioner Williams has spoken with code enforcement and he is looking at several properties, if grass goes into roadway please clean it up. She is excited to announce Allegany County Sheriff's Department created a citizens police academy that gives citizens an inside look on what the police go through on a day to day basis. They received a lot of applications, and luckily Commissioner Williams was picked. Tomorrow they are going to the detention center. The following week will be at the court house they will be speaking to attorneys and the DA and seeing the process of how things go through the courthouse.

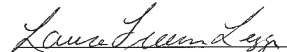
Commissioner Shapiro says we have no Financial Report for this evening. He will email it to everyone as soon as possible. The budget is up from last year about 300k the majority is in water, an increase of about 28k in taxes, we will be giving a 4% raise to all employees effective July 1st 2023. Motion to approve the budget made by Commissioner Shapiro, Commissioner Williams seconds. Motion carried

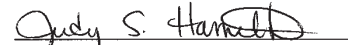
Commissioner Shapiro speaks on issues at Creekside park. We lock the bathrooms at Creekside because of vandalism, but there are families and many people in the park. We could rent a port-a-pot for \$110 a month, for the months of May, June, July, Aug, and September. He wants to work on a grant to upgrade the facilities to go to a waterless system. Motion to rent a port-a-potty at Creekside park for the next 5 months made by Commissioner Shapiro. Phil 2nds. Question from Commissioner Williams on why we don't open the bathrooms that are already there. It is stated that it was due from the vandalism they've had in the past. Motion Carries.

Commissioner Shapiro authorizes the purchase a truck for the water department and street department by using a CD secured Loan. We've budgeted 250k line items and they are for each department. Commissioner Shapiro recommends that we do the exact same thing again that we did with the last truck. At the end of 3 years, they would have that money to be able to do it again. Commissioner Shapiro motions to approve the CD secured loans for the purchase of two trucks. Commissioner Phil Whetstone seconds. Motion carries.

The council would like to empower Mayor Hamilton to conduct a search for a town administrator for the Town of Westernport. We have a job description already prepared from the last time. Motion from Commissioner Shapiro, seconded 2nds. Motion Carries.

Motion to adjourned by Commissioner Whetstone, Commissioner Shapiro seconds. Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned.


Attested by: Laura Freeman Legge
Interim Town Clerk


Judy S. Hamilton, Mayor